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Prof. Dr hab. Jacek Purchla,
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The 60th anniversary of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO

The year 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO while the 70th anniversary of UNESCO was celebrated last year. This creates yet another opportunity to reflect on, and recall some facts from the history of Poland's cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Today, UNESCO means unquestioned prestige and brand of the Organization which after 70 years brings together 195 Member States and 10 Associate Members. UNESCO focuses on the world of values and not on the world of capital. Undoubtedly, this is where the magic and strength of the UNESCO brand stems from. It is highly appreciated on all continents, not only for effective protection of our natural and cultural heritage, but also for its contribution to the development of science, education, culture, communication and information. UNESCO's patronage or inscription of a site on the World Heritage List gives a significant advantage, an efficient soft power.

UNESCO's history over the past decades could be seen as a continuous attempt to overcome some internal contradictions resulting from the international context of Organization's action as well as from merging of ideas inspired by idealism and limited by pragmatism, based on philosophy and avoiding propaganda, looking for common approach in different cultures. UNESCO features various

levels and forms of cooperation among States, with a special role played by experts. UNESCO's importance is visible whenever the Organization manages to use its potential to build consensus around common goals. As a successor to the International Commission for Intellectual Cooperation, UNESCO was designed not only to reconstruct educational and cultural institutions after wartime destruction, but first of all to help overcome the trauma of war, restore faith in human dignity and "build peace in the minds of men". The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights has remained an undisputed foundation for building consensus between nations, while the UNESCO main fields of activity have been used to seek a platform for dialogue.

Reaching agreement and creating common standards accepted by all has proved possible inter alia in such areas as combating illiteracy, increasing quality of education, ethics in science, protection of cultural and natural heritage as the common good of humanity, and preserving cultural diversity.

National commissions play a very important role in UNESCO's action. These bodies – unique in the United Nations system – are designed to create a platform for cooperation focused on UNESCO's ideas and programmes, between governmental and state institutions, expert communities and civil society. The establishment of such "mixed" structures was envisaged already by the authors of the UNESCO Convention. Today, the idea of cooperation with civil society is taken for granted, but back in 1945 it testified to the far-sighted vision of founders of the Organization. National commissions were provided with a document that defines their specific role, functions and tasks – the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 1978. After several decades, it can be concluded that the contribution of national commissions is substantial.

Two of the most important dates in UNESCO's early history are 16 November 1945, when the UNESCO Convention was signed in London, and 4 November 1946 when the Convention entered into force after the twentieth State had ratified it. Poland is a founding member of the Organization, being one of the thirty-seven countries that signed the UNESCO Convention at the London conference. Earlier, Poland's government-in-exile took an active part in conceptualizing the Organization.

The history of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO also features two important dates, due to the complex political realities following the end of World War II and the government's withdrawal from active participation in the Organization's work in the years 1949–1953. As early as October 1946, the setting up of the national commission was due to the participation in preparatory works in London and the initial involvement of Poland in the Organization's activities.

The National Commission for Cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was attached to

the Ministry of Education. After 1949, it ceased its activities. The Polish government reinstated cooperation with UNESCO in 1954 and involved artists and scientists already connected with the National Commission – including Antoni Słonimski and Professor Stanisław Lorentz – in preparing Poland's participation in the UNESCO General Conference session in Montevideo. Poland has been an active Member State since then.

The national commission for UNESCO, operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with its own permanent secretariat located in the newly-completed Palace of Culture and Science, was established in 1956. At that time, its official name was the Polish Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Its long-time vice-president was Professor Stanisław Lorenz, museologist of international renown. The National Commission's mission was to facilitate international cooperation of Polish scientific and cultural communities. Polish sections of many international organizations were set up at that time. Non-governmental organizations created on the initiative of UNESCO, bringing together specialists from all over the world, were opened to the so-called Eastern Bloc countries.

At that time, a great number of Polish artists and scientists took an active part in the works of international organizations. Poland hosted major conferences, including the Constitutional and First General Assemblies of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1965. Polish experts were directly involved in the elaboration of UNESCO documents, such as the 1972 World Heritage Convention, which gave rise to the World Heritage List. The Convention established a reasonable consensus by defining criteria for a commonly accepted set of values respected today by more than 190 States Parties. It is worth remembering that Poland – an exception among the Eastern Bloc countries – was one of the first signatories to the Convention, and, since 1978, Krakow and Wieliczka have been among the first of 12 World Heritage sites. Thus the List became a kind of compensation and motivation – people in Poland could feel that our culture was appreciated and perceived as part of world culture.

The period after the Cold War was a time of putting together the divided world. The National Commission for UNESCO resumed its activities in 1991 under Professor Jerzy Kłoczowski, an outstanding historian who was to serve as National Commission president for two decades. In the history of Poland's cooperation with UNESCO, Professor Kłoczowski is remembered as an advocate of international dialogue and mutual understanding based on history knowledge, countering negative stereotypes and prejudices in relationships between States and nations. The Joint Committee of UNESCO ICHS (International Committee of Historical Sciences) was established by the UNESCO Director General on his initiative.

Professor Kłoczowski represented Poland as member of the UNESCO Executive Board during two terms, which meant that the Polish

National Commission for UNESCO was involved in key debates on UNESCO's forum. In those years, Poland maintained close contacts with the Organization, which then closely cooperated with Central and Eastern Europe countries. New programmes were created with the participation of Poland and experts of the National Commission. In the late 1990s, UNESCO became a forum of debates on challenges of the globalization in the field of culture. Provisions of two new conventions devoted respectively to intangible cultural heritage and cultural diversity were forged in long discussions on some principles, notions or measures, sometimes understood in different ways in different cultures, confronting a resistance to consent to the principle that "culture is a form of merchandise like no other".

Reflection on the protection of cultural heritage in Poland adapted to contemporary socio-economic conditions and based on UNESCO's conventions, recommendations and programmes, was to become the priority during the presidency of Professor Andrzej Rottermund, since 2011. The adoption of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form, the first global document concerning this issue was of special importance due to efforts undertaken by Poland and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO in this regard. It was, inter alia, a result of consistent activities started in 1993, when Poland hosted the first conference on the Memory of the World Programme, which involves the creation of a register of the most valuable manuscripts, prints and inscriptions of worldwide significance.

Poland will be member of UNESCO World Heritage Committee until 2017, and has co-chaired the Committee since July 2015. It is a special opportunity, as the Committee's decisions including inscriptions on the World Heritage List are adopted by its 21 members elected in majority for four-year terms. At the 40th session of the WHC, held in Istanbul, the President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO was elected Chairperson of the 41st session of the Committee to be held in Krakow in 2017. The reflection on cultural heritage is constantly moving forward. The UNESCO Convention does not adopt a list of objects, but a catalogue of values that we want to protect. This entails important discussion for decades to come in which Poland is ready to participate.

Through various forms of its activities, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO contributes to the visibility of Poland. Culture, but also science and education, are appropriate to build better mutual understanding and dialogue as basis for a long term policy. The impact of the work of national commissions for UNESCO can mainly be seen over a longer period of time. Over the past quarter of a century, my outstanding predecessors – Professor Jerzy Kłoczowski and Professor Andrzej Rottermund – contributed to Poland's position in UNESCO. Today, we are active in many fields of cooperation – on global, regional and subregional levels as well as in such areas as the Euro–Arab Dialogue.

Today, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO is composed of vice-ministers representing seven sectors corresponding to the main fields of UNESCO's competence, as well as of representatives of cultural and scientific communities. The National Commission serves as a liaison office facilitating the cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris, and at the same time, as a body not accidentally affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which promotes Polish international initiatives and projects.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, it is worth remembering that Poland was the first country in Europe and the second in the world to set up a national commission for UNESCO. Today, there is no Member State without a national commission. The national commissions take part in the process of the constant "making" of the Organization which has to respond to the changing needs and expectations of its Member States and contribute to meeting global challenges. ●

Prof. Dr hab. Jacek Purchla

President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO

What we did in 2015

Each edition of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO Bulletin creates an opportunity to summarize and review our activities in the past year. Obviously, due to the publication size, not all activities and issues undertaken by us can be presented herein and we must focus on the major ones.

They result from the National Commission's priority goals connected with Poland's relationship with UNESCO and with promoting UNESCO programmes and ideas in our country, as well as from implementing solutions developed by the international community which are advantageous from the point of view of sustainable development and in line with the principles laid down in conventions, programmes and recommendations on cultural, documentary and natural heritage.

2015 was the first year our National Commission's work was led by Professor Jacek Purchla, who took over as the President and continued the policy mapped out by his predecessor, Professor Andrzej Rottermund. Within this frame and in accordance with the National Commission's expertise, our activity, while focusing on the issues of heritage protection, includes also involvement in seeking solutions to contemporary challenges in various areas of science, culture, education, communication and information. The array of issues covered by UNESCO's competence calls for permanent cooperation with the National Commission members representing particular ministries and domains related to the work of the Organization, as

well as with external experts. The cooperation is based on professional qualifications of the team of Polish National Commission's Permanent Secretariat, who follow UNESCO's activities on a daily basis, also by taking part in the sessions of the Organization's statutory bodies.

Last year, Polish National Commission's Bulletin was almost entirely devoted to the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, celebrated in 2015. In this occasional edition we presented the history of the Organization as seen from the point of view of Poland's contribution to its activities. It was the first attempt at such presentation of UNESCO's history, based on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' and National Commission's archives, as well as on our library resources.

In the current edition of the Bulletin, we present the major events for UNESCO and the Polish National Commission in 2015, of which the 38th session of the General Conference (Paris, 3–18 November) was undoubtedly the most important one. It was held on the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, but also simultaneously with the events which directly testified to the new phenomena that threaten European and global security. For Member States' delegations, the General Conference was an opportunity to express international solidarity and the will to seek common solutions in the face of terrorism, mass migration and climate change. Protection of cultural heritage remained a key issue. In 2015, for the first time in history, it was raised to the UN Security Council debate, who passed the resolution number 2199 of February 2015 on the protection of the cultural heritage of Syria and Iraq, and later, in May 2015, the 69/281 resolution on saving the cultural heritage of Iraq was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It has fallen to UNESCO to face the new challenges posed by the ISIS, of deliberate destruction of cultural goods, plundering of archaeological sites, illicit trafficking in art, aimed to finance terrorist operations, as well as social consequences of cultural and religious conflicts.

The 38th session of the General Conference approved a plan of expenditures for the years 2016–2017 and started work on a next four-year Programme which will focus on the implementation of the sustainable development goals as defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the UN in September 2015.

The major achievements of the General Conference session include the unanimous adoption of the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form. The success, in which the Polish delegation had also its share, culminated several years of efforts by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, conducted in collaboration with the Head Office of the State Archives and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, which aimed to establish the first and currently the sole legal instrument at the global level that is specifically devoted to documentary heritage, both in analogue and in digital forms. Thanks to this, documentary historical resources gained, for the first time, comprehensive global-scale normative support related

to their protection and accessibility. The General Conference also adopted the Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society, and updated the previously adopted International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education, and Recommendation on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The most important documents adopted during the session also include: the Education 2030 Framework for Action, the Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict, and the new International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme (IGGP/PIGG), Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Strategy 2015–2025, and a resolution on the Internet. The Youth Forum that preceded the session was attended by a representative of Poland, who acted as a rapporteur.

In a vote carried out during the General Conference session, Poland was reelected for a four-year term to two intergovernmental bodies: the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) that deals, among other issues, with security of journalists and freedom of speech (with Dr Krzysztof Wojciechowski as Poland's representative), and the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) (with Professor Maciej Zalewski as Poland's representative). UNESCO Director-General reappointed Professor Ewa Bartnik as member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), who will remain a Bureau member and IBC rapporteur until 2017.

Polish National Commission took an active part in preparation for the General Conference session, coordinated by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Commission's representatives acted as observers at the 196th and 197th sessions of the Executive Board. Among numerous subjects discussed before the General Conference session, current events related to the destruction of the World Heritage sites due to armed conflicts became a priority. The 196th session of the Executive Board adopted, among others, the resolution on UNESCO's role and responsibility in protecting cultural heritage in conflict areas, taking into account the context of humanitarian aid and safety. The 197th session of the Executive Board adopted a draft six-year strategy on reinforcing UNESCO's actions for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict, which was approved with no amendments by the General Conference.

In 2015, the most important areas of the Polish National Commission's activity included the preparation of an Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO. We had the honor and pleasure to host over sixty delegates from thirty-four European national commissions, in Krakow, on 24–26 February 2016. Since the launch of the initiative, the Polish National Commission had taken part in creating the European Network of the

National Commissions for UNESCO, which was formally established at a meeting in Bonn, February 2015. The network can be joined by national commissions from EU Member States, EU candidate countries, EFTA Member States and European microstates. The Polish National Commission was entrusted with organizing the first working meeting, performing the role of the host, moderating the sessions and also coordinating the programme work. It is worth mentioning that both the general debate and the thematic panels were prepared with the use of a newly created portal of European national commissions, with the contribution of most of the meeting's participants. The Krakow forum discussed the possible ways of enhancing cooperation in Europe, based on UNESCO programmes, as well as exchanging experience and searching for mutual support in view of the diversity of contemporary challenges, such as the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and contemporary educational models; development of cities; protection of cultural heritage in the face of threats resulting from ongoing armed conflicts; migration problems; scientific cooperation; youth exchange; intercultural dialogue; common aid initiatives; intensifying cooperation of the networks of programme committees; ASPnet and UNESCO Chairs. The meeting was an excellent opportunity for establishing and tightening personal relations between the participants, as fostered by the unique atmosphere of Krakow's Old Town, a World Heritage site full of cultural attractions and friendly locals.

The National Commission's tasks include participating in the statutory sessions of intergovernmental bodies in which Poland is active, and in particular those established under the UNESCO cultural conventions. At the third Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (Paris, 18–20 May 2015), Poland was elected member of the Subsidiary Committee and at the third meeting of this intergovernmental body (Paris, 28–30 September 2015) – vicepresident for Central and Eastern Europe. The Subsidiary Committee dealt with the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 2199 that condemned the destruction and looting of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria, and debated possibilities to improve synergies between the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, and the 1970 Convention, as well as to foster collaboration within the framework of UNESCO cultural conventions, primarily between the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention. The ninth Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Hague Convention was devoted to the implementation of the Hague Convention and the Second Protocol (8 December, Paris).

The works undertaken in order to implement the UNESCO conventions on the international level, and in Poland, are among the key areas of the National Commission's activities. The participation of the Polish delegation in the 39th session of the World Heritage

Committee (WHC) in Bonn (28 June–8 July) was among the most important tasks in 2015. The preparation for the Polish delegation's participation as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Heritage were conducted by the National Heritage Board of Poland in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Ministry of Environment and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Apart from decisions on adding new cultural and natural sites to the World Heritage List, the 39th session of the WHC also passed the Declaration on World Heritage, referred to as the Bonn Declaration.

The Declaration's appeal for international solidarity in countering the destruction of heritage, and looting and illicit trafficking in cultural goods resulted in enhancing work on the complementarity of UNESCO conventions on cultural heritage and cultural diversity (including the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions). Discussion panels on the protection of cultural heritage organized by the host country and attended also by representatives of the Polish National Commission made a very interesting contribution to the session. A representative of Poland took part in the Young Experts Forum that preceded the WHC session and was held in Koblenz, Bonn and other German cities.

It should be noted that Poland was elected to the Bureau of the WHC as vice-president which determined its role in the next WHC session in Istanbul and required the Commission to step up its involvement in the participation of Poland's delegation in the 40th session of the WHC.

As part of fostering intercultural dialogue, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO has been involved for the past few years in the Task Force of National Commissions for the Euro–Arab Dialogue Initiative whose work we coordinated on behalf of the European countries until the end of 2015. Due to this, last year, the Polish National Commission was strongly involved in such initiatives as the organization of a meeting of an international group of experts set up to develop the concept and format of an educational toolkit entitled "Our Common Shared Values". The meeting was held on 1–3 March 2015 in Lisbon, bringing together experts from Portugal, Slovenia, Oman, Lebanon and Poland. Professor Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska, a Polish expert from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, was elected coordinator of the work. In 2015 the Polish National Commission for UNESCO's five-year term as the Task Force coordinator on behalf of the European countries expired. During the 38th General Conference session a meeting was held of national commissions involved in the TF activities where the coordination was passed on to the French National Commission for UNESCO.

In the field of science, the National Commission's major initiatives in 2015 included the organization of an international conference and workshop, devoted to scientific cooperation for sustainable development in Central and Eastern Europe (Warsaw, 11–12 September 2015),

entitled "Sustainability Science in Central and Eastern Europe". The organization of this extremely interesting meeting was possible due to our close cooperation with the German and Austrian Commissions for UNESCO, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Around forty representatives of scientific institutions, government administration, national research and development agencies and national commissions for UNESCO from Central and Eastern European countries discussed issues connected with the concept of sustainability science. This relatively new domain focuses on activities aimed at enabling a better connection between science and sustainable development by fostering the interconnectedness between natural, social and human sciences and their disciplines (interdisciplinary research), as well as the communication and mutual integration between the sciences and the non-academic world (transdisciplinary approach). The success of the conference encourages us to pursue the subject of cooperation between different scientific disciplines also in the coming years.

One of our National Commission's key undertakings aiming at providing aid to developing countries, in particular those from the sub-Saharan region, include fellowship programmes for young researchers. After a few years of operation, they are appreciated by the beneficiaries, as confirmed by the letters they send us. Apart from the satisfaction from helping others and the awareness of supporting professional development of scholars from so many countries, we are also pleased they preserve good memories of their stay in Poland and gain respect for the achievements of Polish science. The Polish National Commission's scholarship policy has been carried out for several years now as the Fellowship Programme, thanks to the support from UNESCO, as well as the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2015, within the UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO Fellowship Programme we received a total of 131 young researchers, including seventy-two people from thirty-four developing countries, mainly from sub-Saharan Africa, but also from Asia and South America. They participated in scientific programmes run by Polish universities and research centers. The biggest number of scholars, mostly from Africa and in the field of technical sciences and engineering, were received by the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, which for a few years has been offering places to about forty scholars every year. Apart from the research opportunities, a rich cultural programme for the fellows is an important asset of the AGH-UST offer. The other programme – the Polish National Commission for UNESCO Fellowship Programme – is mainly addressed to young scientists from Central and Eastern Europe, fifty-nine of whom completed fellowship programmes in twelve Polish universities in 2015. The University of Warsaw and the Lublin University of Technology accepted the highest number of fellows. National Commissions for UNESCO in the young researchers'

home countries are involved in the recruitment of candidates for the Polish Fellowships Programmes.

Another form of scholarship activity developed by our National Commission is a programme of study workshops for young restorers from Belarus recommended by the Belarusian State Academy of Arts in Minsk. The programme is carried out in collaboration with the National Centre for Culture and the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. It is conducted thanks to the cooperation agreement between the Belarusian State Academy of Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, and also thanks to funding from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland. In the 2014/2015 period, three graduates of the Belarusian Academy completed six-month research internships at the Conservation Faculty of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, and in 2015/2016 three young restorers and a professor from the Belarusian Academy benefited from the scholarship opportunity. We are planning to continue the programme in the coming years as we hope it will contribute to better cooperation between the two arts academies and to improving professional expertise of art restorers.

A new issue that fell within the National Commission's competence in 2015 are the UNESCO Global Geoparks due to the establishment of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP/PIGG) by the General Conference at its 38th session. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, which includes the Polish-German Global Muskau Arch Geopark, was inaugurated during the session. The programme envisages direct supervision of national commissions for UNESCO over its implementation. In May 2015, a workshop of European commissions for UNESCO, devoted to their new role as coordinators of the global network of geoparks, was held in the Portuguese geopark Arouca. The workshop was attended by a representative of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. The experiences gained during the meeting will help our National Commission to take efforts towards establishing in 2016 a coordinating body to the UNESCO Geoparks in Poland.

The Polish National Commission was involved in the implementation of various events to commemorate the 2015 anniversaries of outstanding Poles, celebrated under UNESCO's auspices. They included: the 250th anniversary of the birth of Michał Kleofas Ogiński, celebrated together with Lithuania and Belarus, the 200th anniversary of the death of Jan Nepomucen Potocki and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Tadeusz Kantor. Pursuant to a decision by the General Conference, the 200th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kościuszko and the 100th anniversary of the death of the creator of the Esperanto language, Ludwik Zamenhof, both falling in 2017, will be celebrated under UNESCO auspices.

The National Commission sees huge promotional opportunities for cities thanks to their participation in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network. In 2015, we supported Katowice in their efforts to become

a UNESCO Creative City of Music. Under the UNESCO Director-General's decision of December 2015, Katowice was granted this honorable title and joined the network that had already comprised Krakow as a City of Literature.

Our National Commission's activity on the domestic level did not differ from the general priorities for the protection of heritage and raising awareness of culture's role in sustainable development. The attempts to apply the search for answers to contemporary challenges in education, science and building a knowledge society by implementing ideas included in UNESCO's conventions and programmes, constituted an important part of our work. On the one hand, we closely cooperated with Polish ministries and institutions whose competences cover issues related to UNESCO, and on the other hand we fostered cooperation with local governments, non-governmental organizations and cooperation networks within the Organization, such as the ASP net or UNESCO Chairs at the universities. Like in previous years, we believed that it was important to work on full incorporation into the Polish legislative system of the regulations on the protection of cultural heritage and diversity of cultural expressions which, in our opinion, are not implemented yet to the extent required by UNESCO's legal instruments that Poland has ratified.

Recognizing the need to pay particular attention to the issues related to the protection of cultural and natural environment, our Commission developed, in cooperation with experts representing various domains of science, and published in 2015 in collaboration with the National Centre for Culture, a collection of scientific articles entitled "Krajobraz kulturowo-przyrodniczy z perspektywy społecznej" (The Cultural and Natural Landscape from the Perspective of Society). We presented the array of cultural heritage issues related to legal provisions in a 2014 publication "Dlaczego i jak w nowoczesny sposób chronić dziedzictwo kulturowe" (Why and How to Protect Cultural Heritage by Modern Means), edited by Professor Andrzej Rottermund. Ensuring proper protection of Polish sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, according to the World Heritage Convention, is – apart from the preparation for the Polish delegation's participation in subsequent sessions of the WHC – a subject of discussions at the meetings of the Committee for World Cultural Heritage in Poland, attended by members of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO.

The implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage requires contribution from the National Commission, whose representatives took part last year – and intend to continue this engagement – in conferences, festivals and other undertakings aimed to popularize the provisions of the Convention that are still not properly understood. So far, a number of articles addressing the issues of intangible heritage have been published in scientific periodicals. The participation in the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Windhoek, Namibia, 30 November–

–4 December 2015) was important for proper interpretation of the Convention provisions. The National Commission's representatives participate, on a regular basis, in the Council for Intangible Cultural Heritage meetings, at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, taking part in discussions on candidacies for the National Register of Intangible Heritage and cooperating in defining national procedures of inscribing intangible heritage on international lists.

UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme has attracted particular interest of the Polish National Commission since launching of the Programme. Along with activities on the international stage, which resulted in adopting, in 2015, the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form, representatives of our National Commission have been fully involved in the work of the Polish Committee of the Memory of the World Programme. In 2014 and 2015 they cooperated over the candidacies of the Book of Henryków and the Files and library of the Unity of the Brethren, to be inscribed on the MoW Register. A meeting of the International Advisory Committee for the Memory of the World Programme in Abu Dhabi (4–6 October) approved both Polish proposals for new entries into the Memory of the World Register. In next years we are going to continue this activity by cooperating in the preparation of both the domestic and international registers. Cooperation on the international stage, aimed at ensuring proper implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation, will be an important task.

Polish National Commission pays attention to education issues, particularly in view of UNESCO's achievements expressed in international documents, and the possibility to implement them on a domestic level, in shaping modern curricula. In 2011, the National Commission published a book called "Edukacja poprzez kulturę. Innowacyjność i kreatywność." (Education through Culture. Innovation and Creativity), with a section devoted to media education. In order to ensure the introduction of media and digital education into the formal and informal education system, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the National Broadcasting Council issued in 2015 a publication called "O potrzebie edukacji medialnej w Polsce" (On the Need for Media Education in Poland). It was a result of two years work by a team of outstanding experts, under the auspices of the Polish National Commission and the Educational Research Institute. The issues of media competencies play an important role in the activities of the Polish Committee for the Information for All Programme (IFAP), which was set up as an expert team at the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Meetings of the Polish IFAP Committee have been devoted to the exchange of ideas on issues concerning, inter alia, access to information, fostering information society and related to copyright regulations in Poland.

Over the recent years, the National Commission has been interested in education aimed at promoting creative and innovative attitudes, open to cultural diversity. Based on the results of an international UNESCO conference in Lisbon, in 2006, which stressed the need to shape such attitudes through Arts Education, Polish National Commission organized, together with the National Centre for Culture and the city of Łódź authorities, an international conference entitled "Cultural Arts Education – Towards Innovative and Creative Society. The Need for Arts Education at Modern School" (17–18 September 2015). The conference, combined with workshops, was attended by about 200 teachers, mainly from the Polish ASP net schools, chief education officers and practitioners in the field of Arts Education. Experts from Austria, France and Germany took part in discussion panels. The conference started a series of similar undertakings, which we are planning to organize every year in different Polish cities.

As I have already mentioned, cooperation networks, including the UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPnet), play an important role in popularizing UNESCO's ideas and programmes. The National Commission's important tasks include the coordination of the network activities in Poland, which currently comprises 103 Polish schools of elementary, lower and upper secondary levels, as well as kindergartens. They have undertaken numerous activities related to the implementation of UNESCO ideas, often cooperating with schools from other countries, particularly from the EU, and organizing celebrations of thematic UNESCO and UN days. Students from these schools took part in a number of international competitions aimed to popularize knowledge in such important domains as sustainable development, human rights and intercultural education.

As part of intercultural education, in 2015 the Polish National Commission for UNESCO continued the "In the World of Islam" workshop project, launched in 2005. Thanks to the support from the Ministry of National Education, in 2015 we organized two more regional workshops for teachers of all levels of schools in the Świętokrzyskie and Wielkopolskie provinces. Since 2010, the project activities have been conducted in an extended format – comprising a separate set of workshops on challenges facing multicultural classes – in 11 regions of Poland, for a total of nearly 800 teachers. The demand is confirmed by the growing number of applications from teachers interested in the issues of multi- and interculturalism that results, on the one hand, from the topical nature of these subjects and, on the other hand, from their limited presence in both the teachers' education and the school curricula.

The international UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs programme is designed to pursue UNESCO's ideas and programmes in higher education. It involves 10 UNESCO Chairs in Poland. The National Commission monitors their activity, fosters the mutual relations between them and cooperates with the Chairs' experts in organizing various

conferences, meetings, and in preparing documents and analyses on issues debated at UNESCO.

In 2015, the National Commission co-organized the first international summer school on revitalization of historical cities (Lublin, 20–24 July). The Summer School idea was sparked by the need to continue the previous international summer school project, run successfully for 10 years in Zamość and designed for conservators and managers of historical cities in Central and Eastern Europe. Carrying out this initiative in a new format was made possible due to the cooperation with the Lublin Museum, which received funding for this purpose from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and cooperated with the Lublin University of Technology and the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS. We want this initiative to become a permanent item on the calendar of events organized by our National Commission.

We place our information and popularization activities among the most important. Apart from the print publications, we publish, on the Polish National Commission's website (www.unesco.pl), current news about various events – conferences, meetings, anniversaries, competitions – organized by or under the auspices of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, as well as articles on issues related to UNESCO programmes and ideas. All our publications are available in electronic version at <http://www.unesco.pl/publikacje-unesco/>

In this edition of the Bulletin, our readers will find more extensive information on selected undertakings listed in this article, that serve the implementation of the UNESCO ideas. We hope that you will find here inspiration for your own activities. ●

Prof. Dr hab. Sławomir Ratajski

Secretary-General
Polish National Commission for UNESCO

The 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference

The General Conference is UNESCO's highest governing body, composed of representatives of the Member States. It is chaired by the president and thirty-six vice-presidents. The president performs her/his function until the next session. Ordinary sessions of the General Conference are held in Paris every two years.

The General Conference takes decisions on admitting new Member States, nominates Director-General for a four-year term and elects Member States to be members of the UNESCO Executive Board



38th session of the UNESCO General Conference, 3-18 November 2015.
Photo: © UNESCO / N. Houquenade

and intergovernmental subsidiary organs. The composition of the Executive Board and other subsidiary organs, whose term lasts four years, is partially renewed every two years. The General Conference makes decisions on the programme and budget by means of resolutions. Currently, UNESCO's programme is adopted every four years and budget estimates every two years.

In the UNESCO voting system, each Member State is given one vote.

The Organization has 195 Member States and – since November 2015 – 10 Associate Members. Intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations are invited to the General Conference sessions.

The 38th session of the General Conference was held in Paris on

3–18 November 2015. It was the first session that did not adopt a new programme due to the extension of the programming cycle to four years. The General Conference introduced a number of amendments to the current programme for the years 2014–2017 and outlined general programme priorities for the coming four years. Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa (Namibia) was elected president of the General Conference. Poland performed the function of vice-president.

The Polish delegation was headed by Ms Henryka Mościcka-Dendys,

Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who made a national statement during the general policy debate on the 5 November. The delegation included: ambassador Krystyna Żurek, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Poland to UNESCO; Professor Jacek Purchla, President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO; Professor Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO; Ms Agnieszka Wyznikiewicz-Mabrouk of the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Poland to UNESCO; Ms Małgorzata Skórka, representative of the Ministry of National Education; Ms Aleksandra Wacławczyk, Deputy Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO; and Mr Tomasz Komorowski, project coordinator at the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Due to the debate on a new legal instrument related to the documentary heritage, the session was attended by a representative of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Professor Władysław Stępnia, General Director of the State Archives, and Professor Katarzyna Zalasńska.

The 9th Youth Forum entitled “Young Global Citizens for a Sustainable

Planet” that preceded the session (26–28 October 2015) was attended by a student of the Warsaw University, Sylwester Nagórka, who represented Poland at the Forum.

The General Conference decided to admit the island of Montserrat

as a UNESCO Associate Member, increasing their number to 10. The motion to admit Kosovo as a new Member State was rejected after a vote.

On 16 and 17 November, during the Leaders' Forum, State leaders

and government officials from eight countries, including French President François Hollande addressed the delegates. US President,

Barack Obama, sent a message to the General Conference. The Leaders Forum, organized on the occasion of the celebration of UNESCO's 70th anniversary became an opportunity to express solidarity with France after the 13 November terrorist attacks in Paris carried out by ISIS.

Both at the Leaders' Forum and during the general policy debate, participants on numerous occasions expressed their condemnation for the acts of violent extremism directed against the key values on which UNESCO is built: individual freedom and dignity, respect for human rights and cultural heritage. Both the French President and UNESCO Director General, as well as the delegates to the General Conference, stressed the need for solidarity in the face of common threats and the need to counter any attempts of intimidation and destabilization.

The debates at the 38th General Conference session focused on two key issues: summing up UNESCO's 70 years of action and adopting main lines of programme development, and on UNESCO's involvement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The most important resolutions of the General Conference include the following:

- Adoption of "The Strategy for Reinforcing UNESCO's Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict". The General Conference decided to include cultural heritage and cultural diversity in the security strategy and humanitarian actions conducted in armed conflict areas.
- Support for the Education 2030 Framework for Action that outlined the tasks for education in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Recognition of the final document of the New Delhi conference on availability of new ICT solutions to persons with disabilities (The New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality).
- Adoption of a new programme on UNESCO Global Geoparks. The issues of geoparks were added to the scope of activity of the International Geoscience Programme. Currently, the programme is called the International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme (IGGP).
- Adoption of Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Strategy (2015-2025).
- Adoption of the Recommendation on Preservation and Access to Documentary Heritage, including in Digital Form. It is the first document with a normative global impact, and Poland played an important role in developing it.
- Adoption of the Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society. The new international legal instrument was drawn up

due to the growing role of museums in social and economic life and in education.

- Revision of three previously adopted normative documents:
 - The 1978 International Charter for Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport – updated in order to increase its impact as an instrument to protect sport against doping, violence, manipulation and corruption.
 - The 1976 Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education, currently called the Recommendation on Adult Learning and Education.
 - The 1989 Recommendation on Technical and Vocational Education, amended in 2001, and currently called the Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).
- Proclamation of new international days:
 - African World Heritage Day (5 May)
 - International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem (26 July)
 - International Day of University Sport (20 September)
 - International Day for Universal Access to Information (28 September)
 - World Day of Romani Language (5 November)
- Adoption of a list of anniversaries celebrated under UNESCO auspices in 2016–2017, including anniversaries proposed by Poland:
 - 200th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kościuszko (2017)
 - 100th anniversary of the death of Ludwik Zamenhof (2017)
- Adoption of the resolution on UNESCO's role in the Internet-related issues concerning the rules and principles of using the Internet and referring in this respect to human rights. Among other aspects, the resolution stresses the need for universal access to knowledge and information.

The course of the 38th General Conference session confirmed the validity of UNESCO's mission in the face of contemporary conflicts and growing violence. The General Conference stressed the need to modify certain programmes that should have a bigger role in preventing threats. The issues formulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development concern a significant number of areas of UNESCO's activity and will be considered in a programme being developed for the next four years (2018–2021).

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Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO

The Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO, held in Krakow on 24-26 February 2016, was organized by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Cultural Centre in Krakow and the Krakow City Council. The meeting was attended by around 60 participants from over 30 countries, i.e. Presidents, Secretaries-General and other representatives of the National Commissions participating in the Network, as well as invited experts. Two representatives of UNESCO

Secretariat, Mr Eric Falt, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information and Mr Eliot Minchenberg from the ERI Sector were invited as guests.

The Krakow Meeting was the Network's first gathering after it had been established at the constituent meeting in Bonn (4-5 February 2015), as an informal network of the National Commissions from the EU member and candidate states, the EFTA member states and other European countries bound with the European Union by special cooperation agreements.



The Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO took place in the historic Ravens House („Pod Kruki”) at 25 Main Market Square in Krakow - the seat of the International Cultural Centre. Photo: © Paweł Mazur / International Cultural Centre in Krakow



(From right) UNESCO ADG/ERI Mr Eric Falt,; Prof. Jacek Purchla, President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO; Mr Robert Piaskowski, Programme Director of the Krakow Festival Office; Mr Andrzej Kulig, Vice-president of Krakow. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow

In line with the objective of the European Network of National Commissions, the meeting in Krakow served the purpose of exchanging experiences which enables an enhanced cooperation among participating Commissions and the rapprochement of positions and actions in favour of a common European perspective of the Organization. It has proved that direct contacts play an important role in the exchange of good practices in the implementation of programmes and UNESCO's normative instruments, and form a platform for discussion on the most important issues from both Europe's and global perspectives.

The Krakow Meeting took place in a significant moment for Europe and for UNESCO's activity. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015 by the UN General Assembly, has a direct reference to UNESCO's competences in the fields of education, science, culture, communication and information. UNESCO will play a key role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which translate the Agenda into concrete actions. This means great responsibility for the Organization and for each of its 195 Member States. UNESCO's mandate relates specifically to the particularly urgent social and civilizational challenges, such as: intercultural relations based on dialogue and respect for diversity; education for peace and against violence; protecting cultural and natural heritage and transmitting it to future generations; fighting inequalities in access to education and ensuring its high quality in connection with

transformations brought about by the rapid development of ICTs and social communication; science and technology development; ensuring the freedom of expression and the freedom of information. The debates were focused on possible forms of increasing cooperation in Europe over UNESCO's programmes' implementation and the search for a mutual support in facing the diversity of today's opportunities and challenges, such as the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development mentioned above.

The delegates discussed the transformation of education and science models in contemporary world, urban development, heritage protection against the risks caused by current armed conflicts and their outcomes which affect the social, demographic and cultural spheres of our lives, the heritage, systems of values, capacities for understanding and reaching agreements, or social cohesion. The problems related to migration, youth, intercultural dialogue, involvement in aid initiatives, as well as UNESCO programme networks were some of the most important issues of the sessions. The proceedings also served the exchange of opinions and initial, informal pre-consultation of methods of working on the UNESCO's new programme and budget (39 C/5) for the years 2018–2021, to be adopted at the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2017. The participants stressed the importance of direct consultations with the participation of the national commissions for the quality of work on the programme.



ADG/ERI Mr Eric Falt at the plenary session, opening the Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions in Krakow. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow



Mr Roland Bernecker, Secretary-General of the German Commission for UNESCO speaking at the plenary session, 24 February 2016. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow

In his speech “What is trending among UNESCO Networks (and how it may relate to National Commissions)”, commencing the Krakow meeting, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information, Mr Eric Falt highlighted the role of the National Commissions in the activities of UNESCO and their participation in the implementation of programmes, as the first and the most important network. He stressed the National Commissions’ function of a link between UNESCO’s Secretariat and other networks, which are monitored or coordinated by the National Commissions at a national level. Among others, the following networks were mentioned: national committees of UNESCO programmes, Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), UNESCO Chairs, Creative Cities Network, Goodwill Ambassadors, the Young Professionals Programme and UNESCO Clubs.

Referring to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Mr Eric Falt stressed the importance of the ongoing, preliminary work on its implementation, both by the Secretariat and the Member States. The Interregional Meeting of National Commissions, which took place on 13-15 June 2016 in Shanghai, was largely devoted to the ways of participation of the Organization and the National Commissions in the implementation of the Agenda.

During the Krakow Meeting the plenary sessions, parallel sessions and the World Café were an opportunity to ask many questions, exchange information and feedback. Education is one of the most important areas of UNESCO activities. New opportunities and challenges for education

in Europe in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals were discussed during the first plenary session prepared by the delegates from Denmark, France, Germany and Slovenia. The representative of France compared the Education Framework for Action 2030 adopted by UNESCO and the Education and Training Programme 2020 of the European Union (ET 2020). Despite some differences, the two programmes complement each other and many synergies are possible. Both programmes emphasise similar values: the civic education, human rights and humanistic values, inclusion and equality of access to education. At the same time the EU Programme implemented under the slogan “More jobs and better life” puts more emphasis on vocational training and the link between education and the labour market. The significance of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the particular opportunity it creates in the context of Agenda 2030 was also underlined at the meeting.

The development of information and communication technologies remains an important opportunity and still a challenge in the field of education in Europe and globally. The Open Educational Resources (OER: a concept created at UNESCO in 2002) and Open Education create a great possibility to improve the availability of educational materials and education. A representative of Slovenia spoke about the challenges posed by the organization of the World Congress of OER in Ljubljana in 2017.

A video, prepared by the Flemish National Commission, showing the destruction of art objects



Workshop activities at the World Café on 25 February 2016. On the left, in the foreground: Ms Mona Mairitsch, Deputy Secretary-General of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO and Prof. Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow.

in the National Museum in Iraq, was a striking introduction to the second plenary session and the discussion on culture and conflicts, destruction and threats to cultural heritage, as well as on tools and activities to promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

During the session prepared by the delegates from Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands and Poland the advisory role of the National Commissions was emphasized, as well as the benefits of their position at the crossroads of the state administration, expert circles and civil society. That placement predestines the National Commissions to undertake initiatives facilitating or improving the cooperation between diverse stakeholders. Inspiring examples of projects involving the Austrian Commission for UNESCO were presented, such as "Cultural Property Panel", "Code of Conduct for Austrian Dealers in Cultural Property" or "Palmyra Talks" organized in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and ICOM, and addressing broader audience.

During the discussion examples of important state initiatives were also mentioned, such as: the creation of the Italian Task Force to assess the damage of cultural heritage, the creation of a fund for protecting cultural property in UK, the creation in Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Sweden of databases of smuggled cultural art objects, the organisation of trainings on the protection of cultural property by Malta and the Czech Republic.

UNESCO has a special role in facing the new challenges caused by acts of intentional destruction of cultural property by the ISIS, i.e. damaging and looting to archaeological sites, illegal trade of works of art for funding terrorist activities, and social consequences of the conflicts on cultural or religious grounds. In 2015 the issue of destruction of cultural heritage was raised at the UN Security Council and as a result the Resolution 2199 on the protection of cultural heritage of Syria and Iraq was adopted. At the same time the UN General Assembly adopted the Resolution 69/281 (May 2015) on saving the cultural heritage of Iraq. Both UN Resolutions underline the need to strengthen synergies between the Hague Convention of 1954 (and its two Protocols) and the Convention of 1970, as well as cooperation within the framework of the UNESCO Conventions on culture, in particular between the World Heritage Convention of 1972 and II Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1999.

The need for synergy in applying UNESCO's normative instruments, especially cultural conventions, as well as the importance of UNESCO's activity in post-conflict situations, both in the field of heritage protection and education, and building intercultural understanding was highlighted by the Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. As a result of a call for international solidarity in the fight against destruction of heritage, looting and illicit traffic of cultural goods, expressed in the Bonn Declaration (adopted at the 39th session of World Heritage Committee in 2015) the work on



Plenary session concluding the World Café at the Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO in Krakow, 26 February, 2016. At the conference table (from the right): Professor Jacek Purchla, President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, Mr Tijs D'Hoest, Secretary-General of the Flemish Commission for UNESCO and Professor Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow

the complementarity of the UNESCO Conventions concerning cultural heritage and cultural diversity (including the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions) was intensified.

Safety of artists, safety of journalists and freedom of expression were raised as a subject of special concern and an issue of great importance within the UNESCO's mandate.

The session on migrations in Europe prepared by Greece, the Netherlands and Turkey showed that there are different views concerning the tasks of National Commissions depending on a country, however there is a clear consensus on the role of UNESCO as an organization whose values are a prerequisite for the preparation of the host countries, as well as the immigrants themselves to social dialogue and intercultural understanding, as a condition for effective newcomers inclusion. The importance of the problem of refugees and immigration as a common challenge for the European countries at the level of basic ethical values and humanitarian and other international law was strongly stressed. Some participants pointed out the analogy between the current, extraordinary situation associated with the war in the Middle East and the period of wars in former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, underlining the need for UNESCO's similar activities.

Just as in relation to other matters, the National Commissions have a unique possibility to facilitate interaction between various bodies of central and local government, communities and institutions.

Examples of such activities were given, related to the fields of improving coordination of refugees supporting actions, raising awareness and intercultural education, as well as addressing educational needs of refugees and immigrants. The Turkish National Commission for UNESCO plays a special, catalytic role in coordinating activities between different departments and institutions of state administration and other sectors, visits Syrian refugee camps and is the author of a report and recommendations to the Government on humanitarian, social and cultural needs in the camps.

The need and importance of research on migrations and related social phenomena and processes was strongly highlighted as an important task for the MOST Programme. At the same time, the need to improve, strengthen and appropriately profile the Programme was stressed.

The next session prepared by the delegates from Austria, France and Germany focused on the role of the 2005 Convention in the negotiation process of the TTIP agreement, with which great hopes of strategic and civilizational dimension, but also concerns in both the EU and USA, are bound.

States Parties to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 2005 have international obligations which include taking into account the needs of media, culture, and education in the negotiation of trade agreements. The current TTIP negotiations between the United States of America and the European Union focus basically on adjusting



One of the parallel workshop sessions, devoted to the issues of geoparks, civil society, management of historic cities and new normative instruments, 25 February 2016. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow



(From right): Mr Karel Komárek, Secretary-General of the Czech Commission for UNESCO (till September 2016) and Mr Tomasz Komorowski from the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, chairing one of the parallel sessions devoted to the new normative instruments, 25 February 2016. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow

certain economic, legal and other standards in the transatlantic economic space. However, in culture and the media, the main focus is on protecting and promoting diversity and thus on designing relevant public policy in this domain. The European Parliament has comprehensively defined the area of culture, media and education policy, as being in need of special attention with respect to trade policy, and the 2005 Convention provides the ideal framework for ensuring such protection.

The session pointed to the potential role of the National Commissions in promoting the 2005 Convention and to the importance of involving the national cultural institutions into the discussion on the TTIP. In December 2015, the French National Commission organized a conference on the TTIP in the light of the 2005 Convention, at the UNESCO Headquarters.

The following session prepared by the Czech Republic and Poland was dedicated to reviewing the new or revised instruments adopted by the General Conference at its 38th session, and to providing information on the work on the future normative acts. It was indicated that the normative instruments are a core aspect of the mandate of UNESCO and important tools to promote its values and mission. It was underlined that the new instruments imply new responsibilities, as well as opportunities for action and cooperation for the Member States and their National Commissions. The aim of the session was to discuss these opportunities and challenges, especially the ones related to the new and revised

Recommendations: concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage; the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society, as well as the Recommendation on adult learning and education, and the Recommendation concerning technical and vocational education and training.

It was emphasised that the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form highly increases the possibilities for national and international cooperation based on the Memory of the World Programme (MoW). Possible forms of involving the European Nat Coms and the MoW national committees to foster the Recommendation's implementation, experts' cooperation and the public awareness of documentary heritage were discussed.

The session prepared by Cyprus, Greece and Spain familiarized the participants with the topic of Geoparks. Although the Geoparks have a longer history (the Global Geoparks Network exists since 2004) they have gained a new status at UNESCO since the 38th session of the General Conference (November 2015) during which the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme was adopted. Within the programme an international network operates aiming to protect and promote heritage sites through the sustainable local development of the territories of particularly significant value. The Programme is a platform of cooperation among various Geoparks in Europe. It brings together



(From right) Prof. Jacek Purchla, President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and Director of the International Cultural Centre in Krakow; Ms Agata Wąsowska-Pawlik, Programme Director of the International Cultural Centre; Ms Justyna Jochym from the Krakow Festival Office; Ms Maria Belina-Brzozowska from the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow



(From left) Ms Joanna Markiewicz from the Polish National Commission for UNESCO; Ms Aleksandra Koziel, volunteer; Ms Karolina Krzyżanowska, trainee to the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow

governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, scientists and experts in a unique partnership.

The participants of the session emphasized the National Commissions' active role in the development of national network within the UNESCO Global Geoparks in their respective countries, the Geoparks' possible positive impact on UNESCO's and the Member States' image, as well as the programme's educational potential. The creation of national Geopark committees is recommended. The possibility of combining Geoparks with educational activities, among others with the use of the ASP Network (as in the case of Cyprus) can be beneficial for both.

The session prepared by the delegates from Germany was designed to present and discuss the challenges facing science policy for sustainable development, especially the concept of sustainability science promoted by UNESCO as a new proposal for research and scientific policy – enhancing mutual communication and integration among different scientific disciplines, between natural, social and human sciences, and also between science and the non-academic world. Many references were made to workshops on "Sustainability Science in Central and Eastern Europe" held in Bratislava (2014) and Warsaw (2015 – organized among others by the Polish National Commission), which led to the establishment of a permanent cooperation between scientific institutions from CEE EU Member States, Germany

and Austria, participating in the meetings. It was suggested that the National Commissions play a bridging role in this relatively new field between governments and the academic world in their respective countries.

The issues of the current development and rapid transformations of cultural landscape and preservation of historic substance in the face of industrial pollution, demographic changes, alterations in social structure, tourism development and its influence on the residential character of historic cities were the subject of a session lead by the President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, Professor Jacek Purchla. Maintaining the historic cities' authenticity, integrity and identity vis-à-vis the needs related to their modernization and pressures from developers, were also discussed. National Commissions for UNESCO have an important role to play in promoting the normative instruments – especially the cultural conventions and the Recommendation on historic urban landscape (HUL) adopted by UNESCO in 2011 – among decision makers, local communities of historic cities and other partners. Legal, technical and financial tools can help achieving agreement between different stakeholders, local governments and private investors, but it is the local communities and their awareness of the value of heritage that play a key role.

The role of youth in UNESCO activities and the Youth Forum were topics of the next session



Participants of the Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO in Krakow, 24-26 February 2016. Photo: © Janusz Ogonowski / International Cultural Centre in Krakow

prepared by Germany. Since the first UNESCO Youth Forum, the format has been improved towards allowing youth active participation and having participants contribute to the results of the General Conference. The Youth Forum has a very important task of making the voice of the youth heard, while also creating an opportunity of building the capacities of the youth. Participants of the Krakow meeting therefore made a number of recommendations which they submitted to UNESCO.

Several sessions during the Krakow meeting were devoted to various methodological and practical aspects of cooperation over such topics as: "International cooperation for development and UNESCO's programmes: how to attain the balance between competition and coordination at the European level?"; "Mobilization of the civil society on the UNESCO agenda: from the old tools to the new digital perspectives" or optimizing the website of the European Network.

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The meeting in Krakow showed that in view of existing conflicts and threats to cultural heritage, social cohesion, identity and mutual understanding, the importance of UNESCO as an organization whose purpose and mandate apply to peace-building, is growing. It is based on creating conditions for cultural dialogue and understanding, working for public awareness and education towards respect for persons and for

human rights and openness to diversity. In these circumstances, the significance of the National Commissions for UNESCO is reaffirmed as advisory bodies enhancing programmes of UNESCO also through less formal action at the national, regional and international levels. The European solidarity in the face of today's challenges is essential. Disseminating information about UNESCO's programmes, conventions and other instruments, and fulfilling the bridging role between UNESCO's programmes, societies and different actors in the Member States remain the important tasks facing National Commissions.

A need for actions to promote media, information and digital education, education through culture and educational programmes open to cooperation and sustainable development, has been confirmed, as well as the necessity of strengthening such programmes as the Memory of the World and – especially with reference to the issue of migrations – the MOST, along with the innovative solutions, such as Open Educational Resources (OER).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be the main determinant for UNESCO's programmes in the coming years. In addition to the Agenda 2030 it is important that the UNESCO programme for the years 2018-2021 adequately takes into account – within the competence of the Organization – the urgent challenges facing Europe and European involvement in the world. ●

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Sustainability science in Central and Eastern Europe¹

Sustainability science is a relatively new field of research and science policy discussion that aims at improving the sciences' contribution to sustainable development, especially by promoting a solution-oriented, inter- and transdisciplinary research. This approach fosters the interconnectedness between natural, social and human sciences and their disciplines, as well as the communication and mutual integration between the sciences and the extra-academic world. This aspect of the sustainability science seems to be particularly

important not only from the point of view of practical solutions and e.g. the role of consultations in Research and Development (R&D) projects. It seems to have also a much broader sense while fostering reflection and facilitating also general understanding of the world and knowledge in the age of a universal crisis of understanding, a crisis that leads to such phenomena as proliferation of anti-science movements, stereotyping, radicalisation or "ideologisation" of public discourse, or violent extremism.



Plenary session at the international workshops „Sustainability Science in Central and Eastern Europe” organized in Warsaw, 11-12 September 2015.

¹ This article is largely based on a paper presented at the "Inception Symposium on Broadening the Application of the Sustainability Science Approach in support of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (UNESCO Headquarters, 5–6 April 2016)

Sustainability science has already been developing for several years in such countries as the US, Japan and Germany, and in international cooperation. It is also inscribed in the current UNESCO's Programme and Budget, in both scientific Major Programmes.

Since 2014, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO has been participating in the Nat Coms' cooperation aiming to promote the research cooperation on sustainability science in the Central and Eastern Europe that has involved the National Commissions and participants from the eight CEE countries, which in 2004 entered the European Union, as well as Austria and Germany. Two workshops were organised, which not only enabled the exchange of information and discussion of the sustainability science concept, but also led to a lasting, sub-regional research cooperation.

The workshops were held in Bratislava (June 2014), co-organised by the Austrian, German and Slovak Commissions for UNESCO, and in Warsaw (September 2015), organised by the Austrian, German and Polish Commissions, and co-organised by two Polish ministries: of Science and Higher Education and of Foreign Affairs. Both workshops' participants (around 40 each time) were first of all scientists representing research institutes or centres specialised in sustainable development (SD) issues or education for sustainable development (ESD), as well as policy makers and representatives of ministries and state administration bodies competent in the fields of science policy and SD, and National Commissions for UNESCO. The results are summarised in the workshops' final documents: the "Summary Statement" from Bratislava and the "Statement of Commitment" and "Summary of Main Messages and Results" from Warsaw².

In Warsaw, a decision was taken to create a research consortium aiming to prepare sustainability science indicators to be applicable in science policies at the country level. This initiative is currently in the hands of participating scientists. It develops in a promising way, already

at the present, preliminary stage contributing to enhancing contacts among scholars in the region, which is important, taking into account the state of the art concerning sustainability science in Europe and worldwide.

The decision regarding the consortium and the project it is going to implement was preceded by extensive discussions during both workshops, analysing the situation of sustainable development, scientific policy and sustainability science in the participating countries, as well as broader perspectives and contexts, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development being referred to as a crucial framework. Those exchanges led to some common understanding of sustainability science and the role it can play in science policies, expressed in particular in the "Summary Statement" of the Bratislava workshop and developed in a number of aspects in Warsaw. As it seems, it tells quite much about the status quo regarding the sustainability science in CEE and related needs and challenges.

In spite of the Central and Eastern Europe's historical and cultural complexity and diversity, to be remembered when trying to understand the region's perspectives regarding the SD and sustainability science, the workshops in Bratislava and Warsaw showed that the experience of the communist system rule with its centrally planned economy and profound attempts in social (and cultural) engineering, is still a major challenge. It is worth remembering that the system lasted much longer than over 25 years which have passed from 1989. Mutatis mutandis, its impact has been similar in the CEE countries (obviously not in Austria and the western part of Germany), as was also confirmed at the workshops, and has to be coped with when fostering the transition from unsustainable to sustainable development and when promoting sustainability science in the CEE. **The awareness of environmental and societal** devastations certainly was distinct in that period in several milieus. The transition of 1989 and the 1990s opened up ways to many initiatives

² "Summary Statement" from Bratislava: http://www.unesco.de/fileadmin/medien/Dokumente/Wissenschaft/Sustainability_Science_in_CEE-Summary_Statement_Bratislava_workshop_17June2014.pdf, "Statement of Commitment" and "Summary of Main Messages and Results" from Warsaw: http://www.unesco.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/23-9_Results_-_Warsaw_workshop_-_Sustainability_Science_in_CEE_23092015.pdf

aiming to improve the situation. At the same time, new challenges appeared, connected with rapid economic, political and social transformations.

Entering the EU has been a particularly important trigger towards a more sustainable development in the CEE countries which accessed the Union in 2004. It is not only environmental protective infrastructure that could be improved. Legal and institutional frameworks, as well as new opportunities for cooperation have been of core significance.

Concerning the sustainability science, as was visible in Bratislava and Warsaw, the inter- and transdisciplinary approaches are practiced in the CEE countries. Thus, if the sustainability science is perceived as an approach, and if the transdisciplinary approach should be regarded as one of its core features, it can be said that a "sustainability science in practice" does exist in the region: within e.g. R&D and other projects implemented or co-implemented by universities and other research institutions.



Participants of the international workshops „Sustainability Science in Central and Eastern Europe“.

However, with some exceptions (especially in Germany), the theoretical reflection on sustainability science is usually much less present and the awareness of the concept even among scholars seems to be rather vague. Obviously, this observation can by no means be limited to the CEE region. At the same time, it is important to have an elaborated, well discussed concept not only for theoretical reasons, but on a completely pragmatic ground as well: as to have a language, definitions, a vocabulary has a strong, persuasive power, encourages commitment, fosters dialogue, understanding and outreach.

At the workshops in Bratislava and Warsaw, the sustainability science concept was discussed and understood first of all as a transformative approach: an approach transforming the relationship between the sciences and the extra-academic world (trans-disciplinary approach), the sciences and the academic life themselves (inter-disciplinary approach, democratisation of academic life, flattening the hierarchical distances) and the relationship between the sciences and governance at policy level. The need for creating a more friendly institutional environment for inter- and transdisciplinary research was highlighted.

In the context of the inter- and transdisciplinary research, the Bratislava "Summary Statement" emphasises the need for a full integration of social sciences and humanities in the sustainability science, as it targets the understanding of complex socio-ecological systems.

Integration of research with education is highlighted in the "Statement" as well, from the



World Café session at the international workshops „Sustainability Science in Central and Eastern Europe“.

point of view of scientists acquiring the ability to conduct the inter- and transdisciplinary research.

It can be concluded that the Bratislava and Warsaw workshops have confirmed that dialogue and communication seem to be both major advantages of sustainability science and major requirements if it is to advance and to make a substantial contribution to the sustainable development. Certainly, “dialogue” and “communication” should be understood in a broad sense. It is worth remembering that the Greek word “logos”, apart from its commonly used connotation (“word”), bears also the meaning of “thought”, “reflection”, “discourse”, and that “communication” has much in common with the Latin “communio”: so, with community as “mutual participation”.

Such tools as sustainability science indicators can be extremely useful today, when the sustainability science concept already has its history and at the same time its general awareness is still weak. Already the process of the indicators’ working out should contribute to the applicability of sustainability science, its further theoretical or methodological elaboration, promotion, and broadening of professional cooperation.

The workshops’ organisation also illustrates to some extent the usefulness of the national commissions for UNESCO as facilitators of

both national and international or cross-border cooperation³ in projects requiring multi-stakeholder approaches, bridging differences and meeting together diverse actors, milieus, sectors, involving e.g. academic and governmental circles, especially when it comes to new issues or subjects which require new or innovative approaches and perspectives, changing petrified patterns of thinking, building understanding between views and interests. The National Commissions’ pertinence in such exercises is largely due to their positioning at the crossroads of governments and other segments of the society, and to their “soft”, advisory functions. It is also strictly related to the character of UNESCO as an intergovernmental organisation with a broad, multidisciplinary mandate in the fields which require to particular extent the “soft” competences and activities developing common understanding of problems and building consensus between different societies, cultures, experts, stakeholders, thus advancing dialogue as a practice and as an ethical attitude. ●

Tomasz Komorowski

All photographs published with this article have been taken by Natalia Król, Magdalena Żdzałik and the German Commission for UNESCO.

³ The Bratislava and Warsaw workshops were themselves an example of the Nat Coms’ potential in trans-border cooperation. The important conceptual and initiative role of the German Commission for UNESCO in this cooperation deserves a special mention as an example of experience sharing.

UNESCO Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form

A big success for UNESCO, and at the same time for Poland, was the unanimous adoption of the international Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form, during the 38th Session of the General Conference (Paris, 3–18 November 2015, 38 C/Resolution 55), after two years of UNESCO's work on the text.

The Recommendation is the first and currently the only legal instrument at the global level that is specifically devoted to documentary heritage, both analogue and digital. It fills a significant gap that has existed in international law related to humanity's heritage. It can be said that for the first time documentary historical resources have received comprehensive global-scale normative support in the area of access and protection.

The gap was particularly acute given the unique vulnerability of documentary heritage to loss, both as a result of wars, various destructive actions and natural disasters, and inadequate protection or failure to keep pace with the development of information and communication technologies. At the same time it is hard to overestimate the importance of documentary heritage as a source of memory in both individual and collective dimensions, and in particular as a source of

knowledge about the history and culture of societies. It involves a huge role for this heritage in shaping the identity of people, cultures and societies and in fostering knowledge-based dialogue and agreement between them.

The broad awareness of the importance of creating the Recommendation was confirmed by the fact that, within the work of the Communication and Information Commission at the 38th session of the General Conference, the point concerning it was addressed by the biggest number of Member States. The course of the debate and the unanimous passage of the resolution adopting the Recommendation by UNESCO clearly indicate the huge importance attached to documentary heritage across the world. The development of information and communication technologies translates into new requirements and demands related to such problems as preserving digital heritage and new ways of providing access to audiovisual heritage. However, it first of all opens up quite new opportunities for conservation, storage and providing access to all kinds of documentary heritage in all regions of the world. This also concerns, to a large extent, areas dominated by the heritage of oral cultures where, thanks to technologies – currently digital ones – collective memory is preserved in the audiovisual form.

The Recommendation includes a broad definition

of a document. The definition is open to various types of messages and relates the document to analogue or digital informational content and carrier. A significant factor in the world of new technologies, the Recommendation stresses that the relation between the carrier and the content may be of differing natures, from very close to completely incidental. In compliance with the concept of the Memory of the World Programme, the definition of documentary heritage is also broad and it stresses global significance of this heritage and common responsibility for its preservation 'for all'.

The Recommendation's provisions have been

grouped in five chapters: 1) identification of documentary heritage; 2) preservation of documentary heritage; 3) access to documentary heritage; 4) policy measures; and a separate issue of 5) national and international cooperation. UNESCO Member States are encouraged, inter alia, to support memory institutions in creating selection criteria and policies of preserving documentary heritage, using research and consultation, in line with international standards. Introducing universal access to heritage is promoted while respecting both copyright and human rights (e.g. right to privacy) and defining exceptions through clear legislation. The Memory of the World Programme and documentary heritage registers created under the programme are considered an important tool to facilitate the implementation of the Recommendation, among others in promoting international standards and good practices, increasing social awareness and monitoring the status of particularly important documentary heritage. The Recommendation also encourages interested countries to share digital copies (with

a clear reservation that it has no implications on the ownership of originals) and to create synergies between the Memory of the World Programme and other heritage programmes and Conventions.

As a country that had suffered exceptional

losses of documentary heritage due to the partitions, and in particular, to the Second World War, Poland constantly and systematically supported UNESCO's work on the Recommendation. The work was sparked during the 4th International Memory of the World Conference entitled "Culture – Memory – Identities", organized in Warsaw in 2011 by Poland in cooperation with UNESCO. Poland was represented by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Head Office of the State Archives, the Polish Committee of the Memory of the World Programme, the National Centre for Culture and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. The Warsaw conference and a meeting of UNESCO experts, organized in Warsaw in 2012, resulted in the passage of resolutions of the General Conference and the UNESCO Executive Board decisions, which led to launching work on the Recommendation. The meeting of UNESCO experts, organized in Warsaw in 2014, became an opportunity to hold an in-depth discussion on the content of the future instrument and supported the process of developing its first draft. The Polish delegation, including the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, was also an active participant in further work on the content of the Recommendation, in particular during an intergovernmental Special Committee meeting of experts on 1–2 July 2015. ●

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UNESCO

Global Muskau Arch Geopark

Transborder, Polish-German UNESCO Global Muskau Arch Geopark (Łuk Mużakowa/Muskauer Faltenbogen) is the first Polish geopark included in the Geoparks Network within the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), founded under a resolution of the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference (38 C/Resolution 23) of 17 November 2015.

The ceremony of granting the UNESCO Global Geopark certificate took place at the New Castle in Bad Muskau, on 28 May 2016. The document was presented by representatives of Polish and German Commissions for UNESCO in the presence of the Marshal of the Lubuskie Province; the Minister for

Rural Development, Environment and Agriculture of Brandenburg; the Minister for the Environment and Agriculture of Saxony, as well as Bad Muskau and Łęknica local authorities and representatives of regional organizations.

Geoparks are a relatively new idea in the field of natural environment protection and promotion of areas of special geological significance. The European Geoparks Network was launched in 2000 with four geoparks in France, Greece, Spain and Germany, and the Global Geoparks Network was founded in 2004. The resolution adopted at the 38th session of the General Conference crowns the process of cooperation between UNESCO and



Basaltic bridge in the Kromlau Park. Fot: © Jacek Koźma



Post-mining landscape of the former Hermann mine. Fot: © Biuro Geoparku Łuk Mużakowa

the European and Global Geoparks Networks that was started back in 2001. Network membership is required for a geopark to participate in the UNESCO programme. The geoparks' participation in the programme is renewed every four years.

Currently, the IGGP comprises 120 geoparks located in 33 countries in Europe, Asia and North and South America. Muskau Arch's participation in the programme is particularly important as it is one of just four geoparks in the world with a transborder location and international character. The Muskau Arch Geopark, which covers close to 580 square kilometers, also includes the area of the Muskauer Park (Fürst-Pückler-Park), a Polish-German transborder cultural site inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

UNESCO's motto, written into the Convention founding the Organization soon after World War II, is "constructing the defenses of peace" in people's minds. UNESCO's continuous support for the development of transborder cooperation is a special form of pursuing this idea. This is evidenced both in the case of IGGP and in all programmes and activities that create lists of particularly significant areas, sites, elements, objects or collections: in UNESCO cultural Conventions, in the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and in the Memory of the World Programme.

The Global Muskau Arch Geopark covers one of the most beautifully shaped – in the form of a horseshoe open to the north – and the best preserved terminal moraines that reflect the reach of the Scandinavian Ice Sheet, created

about 340,000 years ago during one of the oldest European glacial periods. The weight of the ice sheet caused shifts and deformations of geological strata that go down about 300 meters below ground level. As a result, geological formations of economic significance were raised, and extracted mainly in the period from the second half of the 19th century to the 1970s. At first, these were alum shales, then lignite, ceramic shales, and glass sand. For that reason, today one may observe in selected locations of Muskau Arch not only interesting post-glacial shaping of the land, but also an exceptional post-mining landscape, which thanks to reclamation and natural processes, has been transformed and features entirely new, rare landscape forms. Today it is of great cognitive value and also offers impressions of significant esthetic intensity. The Muskau Arch area features numerous post-mining reservoirs filled with water of various colors. This is due to the presence of mineral traces and depends on the kind of minerals extracted. The geopark's area has great and comprehensive educational advantages that help people understand landscape, the geological history of the Earth and the complex interactions between inanimate nature and wildlife and human activity. One of the most interesting examples of educational and tourist objects on the Polish side of the geopark is the "Geotourist trail of the former Babina mine", located near Łęknica.

The International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and the Geoparks Network are facing a great future. They have the potential to disseminate knowledge about the geological environment, the history of the Earth and geological sciences, as well as increasing consciousness and sensitivity that help people better value and protect the environment and admire the beauty of nature and landscape. The links between the Global Geoparks Network and UNESCO should significantly facilitate the use of these opportunities due to the Organization's multi- and interdisciplinary competencies and experience that are closely related to the geoparks' activities, with their educational, scientific and cultural dimensions. ●



One of the gates of the geotourist trail, former Babina mine. Photo: © Global Muskau Arch Geopark Office

Tomasz Komorowski, Jacek Koźma



Poland in the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the 1970 UNESCO Convention

On 19 May 2015, Poland was elected member of the Subsidiary Committee of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property for 2015–2019. Within the Subsidiary Committee, Poland represents the Member States of the Regional Group II, together with Armenia and Bulgaria.

The first meeting of the Subsidiary Committee in its new composition was held on 28–30 September 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. It was its third meeting since the Committee was established in 2013. Ms María Vlazaki, representing Greece, has been chairperson since 2015. The vice-chairpersons are representatives of four countries: India, Iraq, Nigeria and Poland. The rapporteur is Mr Névil Montenegro from Ecuador. The Subsidiary Committee is composed of representatives of 18 States Parties, but all meetings are open to representatives of other countries, which makes the meetings an important platform for exchanging ideas and creating cooperation framework for the States Parties to the 1970 Convention.

Due to the current situation, one of the most important issues discussed during the third meeting was the report of the Convention Secretariat on its activities, including the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015). In the document, adopted unanimously on 12 February 2015, the UN Security Council urged UN Member States to take measures to prevent terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria from acquiring funds from trade, including trade in items of cultural, scientific and religious importance. The issue dominated the third meeting of the Subsidiary Committee and its subsequent work. Participants emphasised that the meaning of the 1970 Convention and international cooperation built around it to prevent illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property, changed considerably given the new circumstances and confirmed information that illicit trade in cultural goods, including in archaeological items, was a major funding source for terrorism. The participants pointed to a completely new dimension of the Convention adopted 40 years ago, due to the need to face and combat global terrorism.

These new circumstances and in particular the need to prevent terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria from acquiring funds from trade in cultural items, sheds new light on the problems of prohibition and prevention of illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property. Among other issues, this calls for stricter control of the art market, for example through police databases in selected countries. These and other practical problems were discussed during a one-day Round Table entitled “The movement of cultural property in 2016: regulation, international cooperation and professional diligence for the protection of cultural heritage”, which was held in UNESCO’s Headquarters in Paris on 30 March 2016. The discussion summary was presented at the first meeting of the Informal Reflection Group of the Subsidiary Committee in Delphi, Greece, 3–5 June 2016. Both meetings – in Paris and in Delphi – were organised thanks to funding provided by the Government of China. The panellists of the Round Table included the art market professionals, art collectors and anti-terrorist services officers. They stressed the need for the alignment of legal systems of the States Parties and better implementation of the 1970 Convention, and commented on the “permeability of borders” as well as on the limited capacity of the “transit” countries to prevent the discussed phenomena. One of the conclusions was that one could not forget the significance and position of the legal market, which in a way is accountable to the public for the irregularities of illegal trade. Sales of cultural objects via the Internet is another challenge that was pointed to, both during the third meeting of the Subsidiary Committee and at other working meetings. Due to the problems with locating the seller, as well as the trade platforms’ increasingly limited liability, the issue was placed as a main point on the agenda of the fourth Subsidiary Committee meeting in Paris, on 26–28 September 2016.

International cooperation in restitution of cultural goods under the 1970 Convention is another important subject of discussion during this meeting. A draft document “Standard procedures for return of cultural objects on sale”, prepared by the Secretariat, was discussed earlier at a meeting of the Subsidiary Committee’s Informal Reflection Group in Delphi. However, the comments made there demonstrated that the draft presented at the

session needs further refining. It should be expected that the subsequent version of the document will also be discussed at the next meetings.

Another important issue from the point of view of the implementation and strengthening the role of the 1970 Convention was a review of national reports.¹ In accordance with the report presented by Ms Marina Schneider, from the UNIDROIT (International Institute for the Unification of Private Law), only 30 percent of States Parties have sent their reports, which, according to the UNESCO Secretariat, is very unsatisfactory. At a meeting of an informal working group in Greece, the Secretariat presented a revised version of the report that took account of the answers that had not been reflected in the original report due to their late submission. Experiences and motions related to the past reporting period are to be taken into consideration when preparing the next version of the survey. In a request sent in June, the UNESCO Secretariat asked for comments on the new survey format. It can also be mentioned that the Secretariat sparked an interesting discussion on the transparency of periodic reports submitted by States Parties, by making reference to a similar discussion related to the 1972 Convention periodic reporting. Finally, the Subsidiary Committee agreed that the reports should be made public unless the State Party makes a relevant reservation.

Poland’s role in the activities undertaken by the Subsidiary Committee creates opportunity to build closer cooperation between our country and the States Parties to the Convention. Thanks to the exchange of experiences and information between the participants during the meetings of the Subsidiary Committee, Poland is better prepared to implement the provisions of the 1970 Convention and fulfil its duties resulting from the UN Security Council Resolution 2199 of 2015. ●

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¹ See Review of National Reports on UNESCO website: www.unesco.org/C70/15/3.SC/6

Through Arts Education to understanding of diversity and freedom of cultural expressions

Whenever children need to have their attention focused and their interest centered on safety, at least for a moment – for example in a surgery waiting room, on a journey, during shopping, but also during classes in culture centers – the most frequent remedies include crayons, paints or modelling clay. It is due to a common belief that apart from jumping and running, children like nothing more than drawing and painting, or drumming on some instrument. Why then is this natural form of human expression gradually reduced in later education, as if creating and participating in culture was only a domain of the child's age, and not an important form of individual and social education?

Education directed mainly at passing knowledge has led to marginalization of such subjects as music and arts amid a deluge of other curricula in Polish schools, as if they were not considered important and serving further and enhanced human development. It seems strange considering a completely different approach promoted recently in the European Union, i.e. shaping education so that it fosters creative and innovative attitudes. The growing role of culture as a development axis of societies has been increasingly underscored. The necessity of enhancing curricula, both in the school and outside, is expressed in such initiatives as the European Union declaring 2009 the Year of Creativity and Innovation. Both UNESCO and the

UN have developed an array of recommendations and decisions on the role of Arts Education in the general curriculum. It is expressed clearly in UNESCO's Road Map for Arts Education, adopted during an international conference in Lisbon, organized in 2006 under a telling headline "Building Creative Capacities for the 21st Century." The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development announced by the UN in 2015 indicates tasks for education that accounts for cultural diversity and freedom of communication.

The document, which makes reference to the Charter of Human Rights and to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, asserts the right of every person to cultural education and cultural participation while stressing that culture and arts are basic elements of comprehensive education. A study commissioned by UNESCO has shown that knowledge of and participation in artistic processes coupled with awareness of one's own culture, shape the human need for creativity, the sense of initiative, stimulate imagination, emotional intelligence and capacity for critical reflection, and offer a moral compass and the sense of autonomy and freedom of thought and action.

A tentative list of arts fields that should be taken into account in educational processes was agreed in Lisbon. They include performing arts (dance, drama, music, etc.), literature, poetry, craft, design, digital arts, story telling, heritage, visual arts and film, media and photography. Arts Education based on the listed domains of culture could help maintain a balance between cognitive and emotional development, contributing to increased order and peace. It also helps discover the diversity of forms of cultural and artistic expressions and of cultural practices. It has a strong impact on shaping the sense of individuality of a given human being and particular communities, and at the same time fosters the development of awareness of one's own identity and respect for other person's individuality.

Developing the ability to express emotions and at the same time to describe experiences by artistic activity is an inherent element of the process of growing up. It is all the more important that, while for children the process is natural, for adults the habits of reading, going to exhibitions and taking part in cultural events are learned at home and school. Someone has to teach them how to participate and get involved in culture. These habits are developed in adolescence at school. The above-mentioned domains of art are an important form of team-work learning, but they also help interpret the language of image, film, which is what we have to deal with every day. They make it easier to keep up with the contemporary dynamic and changeable culture, based on visual messages, made possible through modern technologies of direct representation of reality. Apart from an analysis of human behavior and social relationships, they also teach us how

to maintain a critical view of media information, 85 percent of which is visual. A years-long lack of significant presence of Arts Education in Polish schools and limited cultural education undoubtedly contributed to the broadening of the cultural and artistic 'illiteracy', as mentioned in the quoted documents, and to the reduced ability to move around in the virtual reality created by new media where the language of visual arts is one of the basic means of communication. Visual language that governs communication coming from the screen of a TV, computer or mobile phone, not to mention the deluge of visual information in advertisements and magazines, shapes human image (particularly in developed countries) of the contemporary world to a much bigger extent than in the era of the 'Gutenberg galaxy' based on the printed word. The knowledge of this language is becoming a necessary element of education to the same extent as reading and writing, as it is required to operate freely in the common area of natural and virtual realities that the media create. Quoting Finnish academic Tapio Varis, a specialist in the domain of media, the education process should take into account learning such competencies as:

- technical competency: the ability to use new media, such as the Internet, to access information or successfully pass it to other people;
- information competency: the ability to collect, organize and assess information and formulate correct conclusions based on it;
- media creativity competency: the ability to create and disseminate media content for individuals and the broader public;
- global competency: understanding the interdependence between people and nations and the ability to interact and cooperate with people from other cultures;
- competency and responsibility: the ability to understand social consequences of media activity from the point of view of security, privacy, etc.

The Second World Conference on Arts Education was held in 2010

in Seoul. In the issued document it was confirmed that Arts Education is a fundamental measure for harmonious development of cognitive, emotional, aesthetic and social abilities of children and youth. The conference stressed the significance of education that takes into account Arts Education as the primary measure of supporting creativity. The conference also noted the role of Arts Education in the development of the cultural and social dimensions of life, in shaping social responsibility and the sense of community, as well as awareness of cultural diversity and ability to enter cultural dialogue. It pointed to the possibilities offered by Arts Education with regard to seeking answers to global problems, such as peace and sustainable development.

The gradual evolution of the idea of the role of arts and culture in

the education process that took place in the period between the Lisbon and Seoul conferences, points to an ongoing enhancement of the scope of Arts Education by a more comprehensive vision of cultural education that is increasingly present in educational curricula. An important stimulus that spurs such activities is the drive to seek solutions aimed at preventing conflicts resulting from lack of understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity and lack of respect for freedom of expression. I believe that it is education, enhanced with various cultural threats, that has a chance to significantly decrease such conflicts.

Freedom of expression, dialogue and understanding of cultural

diversity is one of the basic goals of UNESCO, an organization built on the ruins left behind by World War II. Its goal is to build peace based on dialogue, acceptance for cultural diversity and understanding of “the Other”. Freedom of expression is usually associated with safety of journalists, freedom to pass and to disseminate information. UNESCO’s Communication and Information Sector prepares regular reports on the safety of journalists and freedom of expression, as well as on threats resulting from the impunity of perpetrators of crimes against journalists performing their professional tasks. The data show that in 2012–2013 alone over 200 journalists were killed, many in Europe. A new report that is being prepared for 2016, is expected to show an even larger number. These are drastic facts, but is it not equally drastic that the Museum Director in Palmyra is being murdered by militants of the ISIS, who in 2015, driven by hatred towards different cultures, blew up this priceless UNESCO World Heritage Site? For us, Poles, the destruction of Palmyra was twice as painful as it also ruined decades-long achievements of both Polish restorers and the archaeologists from the Mediterranean Archaeology Faculty, who – since the discoveries made back in the 1960s by Professor Kazimierz Michałowski – progressed with further great work and offered knowledge to humankind about the beauty of this ancient city. Today they are again ready to offer their knowledge and skills to restore Palmyra’s former greatness and due place in the history of culture.

The developments in the Middle East, of which a cultural conflict is

one of the main causes, clash with the European Union’s aspirations to create a harmoniously developing knowledge society based on the coexistence of many cultures and religions. In this context, it is increasingly important to be aware of one’s own cultural identity, which is necessary to shape the attitudes of openness and acceptance for diversity.

Drawing on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other

commonly recognized UN acts, it is stated in the Preamble to

UNESCO's 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions that 'culture takes diverse forms across time and space and that this diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities and cultural expressions of the peoples and societies making up humanity'. The EU, recognizing the great significance of the 2005 Convention for shaping the cultural policy and defining its role in the development of modern societies, ratified it as an international organization, alongside 126 UNESCO Member States. Poland ratified the Convention in 2007, taking upon itself the obligation to introduce its principles into domestic legislation. In line with its main idea, the Convention stresses the significance of culture for social cohesion; the development-stimulating role of interaction between cultures that is based on freedom of thought, expression and information and diversity of media; the significance of linguistic diversity; the significance of live intangible culture, including the culture of minorities and indigenous peoples, "as manifested in their freedom to create, disseminate and distribute their traditional cultural expressions and to have access thereto, so as to benefit them for their own development."

In line with Articles 6–8, the policy of protection and promotion of diversity of cultural expressions under appropriate regulations, adopted by particular countries, is pursued in such areas as: creating, producing, disseminating, distributing and having access to own cultural expressions; developing cultural industries; free exchange and circulation of ideas and cultural expressions; encouraging creativity and entrepreneurship; supporting artists; respecting intellectual property and copyright; promoting diversity of media; ensuring equal opportunities in access to culture and participation for women, minorities and various social groups, including indigenous peoples; ensuring access to different cultural expressions from other countries. The integration of culture in development policies is an important issue that is strongly emphasized. It is seen as an inherent element of planning the strategy for and implementation of sustainable development, as stated in Article 13 of the Convention. The participation of civil society is indispensable for creating and implementing development policies driven by culture, as stated in Article 11. The participation of culture in building both national and local identities along with fostering the attitudes of tolerance and acceptance for cultural diversity, requires the introduction by Member States, in line with Article 10, of appropriate educational and training programmes for teachers in the scope of creative professions. This refers both to formal Arts Education and education systems within cultural industries, as well as creating conditions for exchange in this field.

In line with the quoted principles of the Convention, while respecting the principles of freedom of expression and cultural diversity, UNESCO and the EU also stress that every form of artistic and media education should take into account the student's cultural identity and how deeply he or she is rooted in their own culture. This results in a postulate that before one sets upon co-creating culture, they should find out more about local culture present in one's own town, district or social group. It is the immediate environment where attitudes of sensitivity to spatial order, aesthetics of a place, social identity and ultimately civil participation skills, should be shaped through cultural and artistic education. If we want to prevent cultural conflicts resulting from ignorance, not only with reference to another culture, but also towards one's own identity, these tasks should make an important part of formal and informal education, they should become an intrinsic part of curricula in every school. A false understanding of one's own identity can lead to xenophobic attitudes that are limited by ethnocentric perception of reality.

It is the shaping of attitudes directed at creativity and innovation, the ability to cooperate and sensitivity to environment that to a large extent determine the richness of human capital, which has a direct impact on sustainable social and economic development based on peaceful coexistence of various social groups. ●

Prof. Dr hab. Sławomir Ratajski

International Conference on Arts Education

17–18 September 2015, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and EC1 Łódź – the City of Culture, in collaboration with the National Centre for Culture and the Łódź City Hall, organized an international conference entitled “Arts Education – Towards Innovative and Creative Society. The Need for Arts Education at Modern School”. The conference, organized under the auspices of the Minister of National Education and the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, was co-funded by the “Interventions” programme of the National Centre for Culture.

In line with its goals, the conference became an opportunity to reflect on how culture and arts

contribute to gaining the competencies required to function in the contemporary world and to create conditions that help build a modern and innovative economy. The conference, attended by a group of outstanding experts, discussed issues related to the role of culture in economic development, Arts Education and cultural heritage education, as well as those arising from new educational challenges.

After the official opening of the conference by Mr Krzysztof Piątkowski, deputy mayor of the City of Łódź, and Professor Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, a debate with foreign experts was led by the Secretary-General. Professor Susanne Keuchel



Plenary session in the Machine Hall EC1 Łódź – the City of Culture, on 17 September 2015.
Photo: © Maria Belina-Brzozowska / Polish National Commission for UNESCO

of the Remscheid Academy for Arts Education (Germany) presented the situation of Arts Education in Germany. Ms Elizabeth Ladrat, who is responsible for Cultural and Arts Education in the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, outlined France's policy in this field, while Dr Michael Wimmer of EDUCULT (the Institute for Cultural Policy and Management in Vienna), presented a lecture entitled "What Makes Austrian Arts Education Truly Austrian? Reflecting on the actual provision of Arts Education in Austria."

The second part of the conference – "What kind of Arts Education does Poland need?" – was moderated by Ms Elżbieta Wrotnowska from the National Centre for Culture, and featured Professor Dorota Ilczuk of the SWPS University in Warsaw with a lecture on "The artist on the labor market. The educated and the educator", Mr Maciej Frąckowiak from the Centre for Educational Practices at the Culture Centre Zamek (Poznań) who discussed activities conducted by the Centre for Educational Practices, while Dr Leszek Karczewski, who is affiliated to the University of Łódź Faculty of Contemporary Culture and Muzeum Sztuki (Museum of Art) in Łódź, presented models of education in cultural institutions.

The practical part of the conference comprised workshops run by institutions involved in Arts Education:

"The design thinking tools for Arts Education" workshop, run by Ms Emilia Kołowacik and Ms Małgorzata Żmijńska from Service Design Polska, encouraged the participants to explore a few tools

from the domain of design thinking that could be used in class to co-create products in the field of culture and education.

The "Do it yourself" workshop, run by Ms Ewa Kokot, an art historian and educator from the Dom Oświatowy (Educational House) of the Silesian Library, involved working in groups to create artistic instructions of humorous, interactive and poetic nature. All participants made their own instruction on a board and then, thanks to the use of typography and simple combinations of forms, gave it the characteristics of a piece of art. The final result was a mini exhibition of the participants' works and photo documentation.

A workshop on Arts Education with methodological reflection – "Form. Narrative. Rule. Value. Experience. The Five Entry Points of Howard Gardner" was run by Dr Leszek Karczewski from the University of Łódź, Faculty of Contemporary Culture and Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź.

A film workshop on "Contemporary faces of film education" that was run by Mr Bartosz Zająć, a lecturer at the University of Łódź, Chair of Film History and Theory, focused on the history of film education, its main goals, institutions responsible for the shape of contemporary audiovisual education in Poland, an analysis of a sample educational project and preparation of the participants' own educational and film project.

Another workshop section was organized in Łódź's theatres. The Pinokio Theatre staged the "Table for Two" étude and conducted "The Workshop of Breathing Paper" for people



(From the left) Prof. Sławomir Ratajski (Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO); Prof. Susanne Keuchel (Remscheid Academy for Arts Education, Germany); Ms Elizabeth Ladrat (Ministry of Culture and Communication, France); Dr Michael Wimmer (EDUCULT, Vienna, Austria). Photo: © Joanna Miklaszewska



Workshop on Arts Education with methodological reflection "Form. Narrative. Rule. Value. Experience. The Five Entry Points of Howard Gardner", run by Dr Leszek Karczewski from the University of Łódź and Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź. Photo: © Sławomir Ratajski

interested in visual theatre and cultural education. In its workshop, the Szwalnia Theatre focused on methods of working with amateur actors and directing in an independent theatre. In its “New forms of artistic education in group activities and collective creation – a theatre workshop”, the Choreia Theatre offered the participants an opportunity to see in practice the innovative forms of educational activities developed by the theatre’s team. The first day of the conference ended with the “Derby” performance staged by the Choreia Theatre in the EC1’s Machine Hall that was specially adapted for this purpose.

The second day of the conference featured a review of good practices in cultural and artistic education in Poland as presented by Ms Ewa Zbroja from the National Centre for Culture. It kicked off with a presentation on the School Physics Circles Festival, which is organized by the Faculty of Technical Physics, Information Technology and Applied Mathematics of the University of Łódź, and is an example of applying technical culture in education. During another presentation, devoted to the nationwide interdisciplinary “KinoSzkola” (CinemaSchool) programme, participants could learn how to use different forms of education to raise students’ media awareness and competencies.

The participants also found inspiration in the presentations by teachers of the Junior High School No. 1 in Bytom that showcased their 10 years of experience in working with students on shaping civic attitudes through Arts Education. Teachers from Tadeusz Kościuszko Junior High School No. 1 in Zawiercie shared their experience in using technology to involve students in projects and cooperate with foreign partners.

Teachers from the High School No. 1 in Białystok presented “A photographed replica of a picture”, while teachers from the Catering Schools Complex in Łódź – a project entitled “Action inspiration ... A multitude of activities in a vocational school” – both representing student’s work and excellent examples of how to use art to spur creative thinking in students.

The National Centre for Culture made participants familiar with various ways of supporting culture-related activities by outlining such programmes as the Map of Culture, Accessible Culture and Culture

Platform. EC1 Łódź – the City of Culture, presented the whole range of its educational activities.

The conference was attended by representatives of central government administration, milieus connected with educational policy and practice, as well as by representatives of institutions associated with culture and cultural education, artists, practitioners and educators from various sectors, journalists, politicians and teachers, including those from UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPnet).

Our reflections were inspired by and based on, inter alia, the final documents of UNESCO’s two international conferences: The Road Map for Arts Education, adopted in Lisbon in 2006, and The Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education, developed in 2010, whose importance is stressed by European Union institutions, as well as documents by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Ministry of National Education concerning the implementation of arts education in schools.

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UNESCO Cultural Events – Wrocław 2016

Wrocław named World Book Capital

On the World Book and Copyright Day, 23 April 2016, Wrocław began its term as UNESCO World Book Capital. The ceremony of granting this title is one of the key events related to Wrocław's role as the European Capital of Culture 2016. The inauguration ceremony was attended by UNESCO Assistant Director-General, Éric Falt and representatives of major publishing companies, bookshops and libraries, a delegation from the South Korean city of Incheon, from which Wrocław took over this prestigious title, and a delegation from the city of Conakry, the capital of the Republic of Guinea, which will become World Book Capital in 2017.

The concept of the World Book Capital stems from the World Book and Copyright Day, which was proclaimed at the 28th session of UNESCO's General Conference in 1995 and which is celebrated on 23 April as an annual event to promote reading, editing and protection of intellectual property by the copyright. The initiative to establish a UNESCO World Book Capital was introduced by the General Conference resolution in 2001. Madrid was the first city to

be named World Book Capital, and was followed in subsequent years by Alexandria (2002), New Delhi (2003), Antwerp (2004), Montreal (2005), Turin (2006), Bogota (2007), Amsterdam (2008), Beirut (2009), Ljubljana (2010), Buenos Aires (2011), Yerevan (2012), Bangkok (2013), Port Harcourt (2014), Incheon (2015) and Wrocław (2016). The title is awarded by an international



Mr Eric Falt, UNESCO ADG/ERI, speaking at the opening ceremony of the Pan Tadeusz Museum in Wrocław. A photograph from the archives of the European Capital of Culture and the UNESCO World Book Capital Wrocław 2016.

committee comprising organizations representing publishers, booksellers and librarians, and is granted to cities that are particularly involved in the promotion of reading at municipal, national and international levels.

“Could you read me, Wrocław?”

This was the slogan of the inaugural literary events that marked the beginning of Wrocław’s term as the World Book Capital, held in the capital of Lower Silesia on 22–24 April 2016. These included the opening of the core exhibition of the newly created Pan Tadeusz Museum. This innovative exhibition and educational space, run by the National Ossoliński Institute, was opened in the Under the Golden Sun tenement house in Wrocław’s market square. The museum’s collection includes the autograph of “Pan Tadeusz” (“Sir Thaddeus” – the Polish national epic) by Adam Mickiewicz, inscribed on Poland’s National Memory of the World Register in 2014. The attractions of the literary opening weekend included meetings with Jo Nesbø, a popular Norwegian crime writer, and a special edition of the European Literature Night. The night was devoted to Shakespeare on the 400th anniversary of his death, and involved public reading of his works by famous actors, including Magdalena Cielecka and Jan Nowicki. Other attractions included a Korean evening, and a walk along Crocodile Street devoted to Polish writers from Lvov.

Book Aid: the World Book Anthem

The “Could you read me Wrocław?” weekend was just the beginning of attractions for literature lovers and readers from all over the world. During Wrocław’s term as UNESCO’s World Book Capital, the city will host close to 1,650 literary events attended by several thousand writers, poets and culture activists. The key events include Bibliopolis, City as a Library, Silesius International Poetry Festival, a translation and publishing programmes. For a complete calendar of events, please visit the website: www.wroclaw2016.pl. Wrocław’s term as UNESCO World Book Capital will end on 23 April 2017. That day will feature

the performance of the World Book Anthem, composed by Jan Kanty Pawluśkiewicz, to the ‘Włosek poety’ (Poet’s Hair) poem by Tadeusz Różewicz. Translated into more than ten languages, it will be sung simultaneously in many cities around the world. The composition is to remain the World Book Anthem.

A new World Book Capital trophy

A new World Book Capital trophy was established last year. It is a bronze statuette representing the pages of a book caught by the wind. The sculpture was created by Hedva Ser, a French artist awarded the UNESCO Artist for Peace title in 2011. From 2016, the trophy will be passed to each World Book Capital city at the start of their term. As he awarded the trophy to Mayor Rafał Dutkiewicz, UNESCO Assistant Director-General Éric Falt said that Wrocław had presented innovative concepts of promoting books and reading. Next year, the trophy will be passed on to Conakry, the capital of the Republic of Guinea, which runs a comprehensive reading promotion programme, mainly addressed to young people. The Wrocław mayor has announced that, together with the statuette, he will offer 100,000 books to the African city.



Ms Hedva Ser, UNESCO Artist for Peace, presenting the World Book Capital Trophy she has designed. Photograph from the Artist’s private collection.

Jazz and Guitar Weekend

As part of the events of the European Capital of Culture Wrocław 2016, the jazz community decided to celebrate International Jazz Day in a special way. The rich and varied Jazz and Guitar Weekend programme was dominated by jazz music: from big bands through electronic jazz, folk jazz, jazz house and many other styles. The International Jazz Day concert on the 30 April was a special performance that concluded one of Europe's oldest jazz festivals – Jazz on the Odra – whose 52nd edition was launched on 26 April and featured world stars (such as the excellent pianist Billy Childs, and the Carrington Power Trio). The day saw several concerts in various parts of the city, including on cruise boats on the Odra River and along the river bank promenades. One could take part in such events as the New Orleans Parade, a big band concert and a jazz-electronic silent disco. The celebrations were accompanied by events dedicated to improvised music, such as: the Jazz Fever at the National Forum of Music – while the Capitol Musical Theatre presented the Rat Pack show, or Sinatra with friends evening (a retrospective of a Rat Pack Las Vegas concert from the 1960s). The final concert at the Centennial Hall featured jazz and electronic music stars, including Nils Frahm with the Nonkeen project, Jazzanova featuring Paul Randolph, Tomasz Stańko, Leszek Możdżer and a UNESCO Artist for Peace, Urszula Dudziak. The event was organized under the honorary patronage of the Ministry of Culture and National



The Jazz and Guitar Weekend in Wrocław. A photograph from the archives of the European Capital of Culture and the UNESCO World Book Capital Wrocław 2016

Heritage and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. For more information, please visit the website www.jazznadodra.pl

Global events marking UNESCO International Jazz Day

Washington hosted UNESCO International Jazz Day celebrations this year, with the highlight of the programme being a grand concert of jazz stars in the White House. The biggest stars of world jazz appeared on stage, including: Aretha Franklin, Herbie Hancock, Al Jarreau, Diana Krall, Christian McBride, Pat Metheny, Marcus Miller, Danilo Pérez and Dianne Reeves. On 30 April, dozens of concerts and educational programmes were held in schools, libraries, hospitals and many other locations in the United States capital, the birthplace of Duke Ellington. Cities in more than 190 countries joined Washington in celebrating the Day. Concerts and meetings with musicians were also held in Poland, including the Katowice Jazz Art Festival, the Festival of the Young and Old in Krakow, or Jazz in Krakow, and the 52nd Jazz on the Odra Festival in Wrocław. Saxophonist Mikołaj Trzaska performed in the Witold Lutosławski Concert Studio of the Polish Radio in Warsaw.

International Jazz Day was established five years ago at the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference. The first celebration was held in Paris, in 2012, and was attended by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock. Subsequent festivals took place in Istanbul (2013), Osaka (2014) and again in Paris (2015). For more information, please visit: <http://jazzday.com/> or <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/international-jazz-day-2016/>

Brave Festival

This year's Brave Festival – Against Cultural Exile was held in Wrocław on 1–16 July. It is Poland's only festival devoted to international cultures and traditions at risk of extinction. Initiated in 2005, it has become one of Wrocław's key events. The organizers – Stowarzyszenie Kultury Teatralnej

"Pieśń Kozła" (The Song of the Goat Association of Theatre Culture) – created a unique festival of authentic art from various nations, nurtured and kept going by members of communities living in unfavorable social, religious and political conditions or being at risk of losing their own culture due to civilizational assimilation. This year's programme included concerts, stagings, discussions, meetings with artists, workshops and exhibitions, as well as film screenings. The programme also featured educational and ecological initiatives. The aim of the festival is to teach respect for individuality and diversity, by presenting people whose everyday reality is very difficult for various reasons. So far, the Brave Festival has attracted artists from 47 countries who took part in close to 750 events. Every year it also attracted an audience of about 150,000 people. All ticket proceeds go the international charity organization ROKPA, whose key activity is helping children in Tibet. The festival is organized under the auspices of the Director-General of UNESCO. For more information on the Brave Festival, please visit: <http://2016.bravefestival.pl/> or http://www.rokpa.org/pl_PL/home.html

Brave Kids project

The Brave Kids project is a Brave Festival event initiated in 2009. Its mission and main goal is to arrange a meeting of child and youth artistic teams from various parts of the world for whom producing art is a form of work to improve

their social situation. The festival features arts workshops for children from poor communities, places affected by social and armed conflicts and for groups from developed countries that struggle with problems and diseases of affluence, such as consumerism, depression or loneliness. Young artists use art as the most universal language that facilitates understanding and makes it easier to find out more about one another. The Brave Kids project presents the diversity of cultures while promoting the attitudes of understanding and openness. The seventh Brave Kids project was held on 18–16 July 2015 in several Polish cities (Warsaw, Wrocław, Wałbrzych and Przemyśl), and abroad (Kosice, Slovakia, and Akhaltsikhe, Georgia). Similarly to the Brave Festival, the Brave Kids project is organized under the auspices of UNESCO Director-General. For more information on the project, please visit: <http://www.bravekids.eu/pl>

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The Brave Kids 2016 project. Photo: © Sławek Przerwa



Faces of the Brave Kids 2016 project. Photo: © Mateusz Bral

Katowice named UNESCO Creative City of Music

In December 2015, UNESCO's Director-General decided to include Katowice in the Creative Cities Network of Music. The promotion to this prestigious group is a great distinction for Katowice. The Creative City brand is recognized all over the world and ensures the city's increased international importance, becoming a seal of quality that attracts tourists to the city and provides an additional boost to the local economy. By granting this title, UNESCO appreciated the strength and diversity of the musical potential of Katowice, which boasts recognized classical, alternative and electronic music festivals, the programme of the Polish National Radio Symphony

Orchestra and works by artists who are part of the city's history – composers Henryk Mikołaj Górecki and Wojciech Kilar.

Katowice's efforts to become a network member were supported by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and Krakow – the first Polish city to join the Creative Cities Network in the domain of literature, in 2013. The Katowice candidature support committee included a number of outstanding representatives of culture, including Professor Krzysztof Penderecki and Professor Andrzej Jasiński.

Alongside Katowice, the Creative Cities Network was joined by 47 cities from 33 countries. Currently, UNESCO Cities of Music include:



Concert at the Tauron New Music Festival, organized on the winding tower of the former Katowice coal mine, 20 August 2015. Photo © Radosław Kaźmierczak



A concert organized on 30 April 2016, on the occasion of the UNESCO International Jazz Day, as part of the Katowice Jazz Art Festival. Photo © Radosław Kaźmierczak

Bogota (Colombia), Seville (Spain), Bologna (Italy), Glasgow (United Kingdom), Ghent (Belgium), Brazzaville (Republic of Congo), Hamamatsu (Japan), Mannheim (Germany), Hanover (Germany), Adelaide (Australia), Idanha-a-Nova (Portugal), Kingston (Jamaica), Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Medellin (Colombia), Salvador (Brazil), Tongyeong (Republic of Korea) and Varanasi (India).

UNESCO's Creative Cities Network was founded in 2004 in order to promote economic, social and cultural development of cities, based on the principles of creativity and sustainable growth.

Currently, the network comprises 116 cities that share their experiences and best practices in cultural development as they promote their own economies and cultural industries and create new urban development opportunities. Membership of the network facilitates cooperation among cities in organizing common initiatives in a given field. UNESCO distinguishes creative cities in seven domains: music, literature, film, gastronomy, crafts & folk art, design and media arts. For more information about the Creative Cities Network, please visit: <http://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/> •

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A concert at the Katowice Jazz Art Festival organized on 28 April 2016 in the seat of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice. Photo © Radosław Kaźmierczak



Kristian Zimerman during the inaugural concert of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice, 24 October 2014. Photo © Bartek Barczyk



Workshops of the Biuro Dźwięku Katowice (Katowice Sound Department), organized in the Tempo Club as part of the several years lasting project of music workshops for creators of experimental and electronic music. Photo © Zuzanna Waltoś

International Summer School on Revitalization of Historic Cities

The first International Summer School for young specialists from Central and Eastern Europe who deal with the protection of cultural heritage was held in Lublin on 20–24 July 2015. It focused on revitalization of historic cities. The programme comprised lectures and workshops. A lot of time was devoted to discussions. The participants presented their experience from working in their own countries. The variety of professional background they represented resulted in diverse perspectives from which they approached the issues discussed. The participants included conservation services employees, architects, conservators and museum specialists from Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Ukraine and Hungary. The Summer School was organized by the Lublin Museum, the Lublin University of Technology and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. The undertaking which was made possible thanks to the support from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, drew on the tradition of the International Summer School in Zamość, organized in 1998–2010 by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with the Municipality of Zamość, World Heritage Site.

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**International Summer School on
Revitalization of Historic Cities
Lublin, Poland, 20-25 July 2015**

Workshops for Belarusian restorers

The second workshop programme for young Belarusian restorers concluded in March 2016. It is a joint undertaking of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, the National Centre for Culture and the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, implemented under an agreement signed in 2013 between the Belarusian State Academy of Arts in Minsk and the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. During each edition of the workshops, the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw receives three students recommended by the Belarusian State Academy of Arts for six-month conservation internships. Between 1 October and 31 March, they follow a research programme at the Academy of Fine Arts' Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art, under the direction of the Academy's professors. Additionally, during the second edition of the workshops, a lecturer from the Belarusian academy's Faculty of Sculpture and

Decorative Art, Professor Yury Padolin took part in a three-month academic study visit. He presented the Academy with a gift of an icon he himself had created.

The international conservation project opens up opportunities for cooperation in educating and improving professional qualifications of young restorers from Belarus. The initiative contributes to the development of academic exchange in the field of art conservation; helps increase the quality of conservation work and protects cultural heritage in Poland's former eastern borderlands. It also creates an opportunity to establish direct relations between professors and students of both academies of fine arts. Due to a huge interest of the Belarusian side in the workshops, it is intended that the internships duration will be extended to eight months, starting from the next edition of the programme.

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Activities within the second edition of the workshop programme for young Belarusian restorers, carried out at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Photo © Łukasz Wójtowicz

Polish UNESCO Associated Schools in 2015

UNESCO is an organization entrusted with the implementation of the fourth out of seventeen Sustainable Development Goals – *Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning* through the implementation of the Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA).

The Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), founded in 1963, is one of UNESCO's most important networks which currently comprises 10,000 education institutions, including 103 from Poland. The ongoing interest in the network is confirmed by applications from new schools: the list of schools waiting for admission in Poland, the

so-called candidate schools, now contains twenty-three institutions.

In 2015, Polish associated schools took part in numerous international and national projects, and the major ones include the following:

- **The Baltic Sea Project (BSPn)** – its aim is to make students conscious of scientific, social and cultural aspects of the interdependence of man and nature.
- **The Global Action Week** – an annual initiative (26 April–2 May 2015) run by the Global Campaign for Education and stemming from the Education for All programme and whose



The II Secondary School in Tomaszów Mazowiecki was one of the four schools in Poland, which, in the school year 2014/2015, took part in the project "Equal school – free from violence and discrimination". Photo: © School Archives



The Cyprian Godebski Primary School in Raszyn organized in June 2015 the Fifth Interschool Ecological Forum for 170 students, teachers and parents from the Raszyn municipality. Photo: © School Archives

main aim is to improve students' knowledge of sustainable growth, raise their awareness of global interdependence between particular communities, and through this to start efforts to bring about changes in the local community.

- **Agenda 21 NOW!** – a global online conference on sustainable development for students aged 14+. The 2015 conference was entitled „Road to 2050 – What the world should be like, what the world could be like . . .”
- **World Heritage Education** is an important element of educating youth. Students from fifteen associated schools took part in activities connected with World Heritage Education.
- The II Secondary School from Tomaszów Mazowiecki and the VIII Secondary School from Wrocław took part in **This is our time**, a global education project on human rights and social justice, coordinated by the Time Project – headquartered in Canada – in collaboration with e-linQ Educational Services from the Netherlands and the UNESCO Associated Schools Project International Coordinating Unit (ASPnet) and Fontys University of Professional Education.
- **The Great Volga River Route Project (GVRR)**, which involves Polish schools, is another UNESCO flagship international project. The programme combines cultural heritage education with the sustainable development ideals.

Schools organize numerous events and activities

around important subjects of particular days established by UNESCO or the UN, such as the Human Rights Day, World AIDS Day, International Day of Tolerance, International Mother Language Day, World Water Day, International Mother Earth Day, World Health Day, World Day for Cultural Diversity, World Book and Copyright Day and Safe Internet Day.

In 2015, the Polish associated schools also celebrated anniversaries held under UNESCO auspices: the 100th and 250th anniversary of the birth of Tadeusz Kantor and Michał Kleofas Ogiński, respectively, and the 200th anniversary of the death of Jan Potocki.

Seven schools took part in activities organized as part of the International Year of Light, whose mission was to focus the attention of the world community on the significance of technologies using light for the promotion of sustainable development, but also to seek solutions to problems related to global energy resources, access to education, agriculture and health.

In connection with the Global Action Programme and the Roadmap for Implementing the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, which are a continuation of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), the 11th edition of the “To Także Twój



I Secondary School in Łuków participated in the project “Village of Peace”. A big model of a settlement was prepared by second year students of history-oriented class IIa, who participated, for several months, in the project, together with the “Dla Ziemi” (For Earth) Association from Bratnik near Lublin. Photo: © School Archives

Świat” (It Is Also Your World) project took place. The project was initiated by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and carried out by the UNESCO Initiatives Centre from Wrocław and supported financially by the Ministry of National Education.

“To Także Twój Świat” is an initiative aimed at popularizing knowledge of global education in Polish schools and to encouraging young people’s activities in their local communities through multi-stage action.

In 2015, eight schools from the Dolnośląskie, Lubuskie and Wielkopolskie provinces took part in the project. The seminar was attended by eighteen students in total. This year’s edition of the project focused on such issues as intercultural communication, fighting xenophobia and prejudice, presentation of equal concepts of culture and understanding the acculturation process. An additional aim of the project was to shape responsible attitudes based on respect for diversity. The newly acquired knowledge, skills and competencies brought results during the Global Education Week when seminar participants organized mini projects at their schools with attention paid to diverse ways of disseminating knowledge and promoting social responsibility.

Students and teachers from Polish schools take part in numerous projects and exchanges conducted in collaboration with foreign associated schools, as well as schools from outside the network. Here one could mention the participation of students from the I Secondary School in Białystok in the 9th Nationwide Session of the European Youth Parliament, which was held in this school in 2015, and the long-term cooperation and exchange in the field of intercultural and ecological education between the I Secondary School in Łomża and the Jean Renoir Gymnasium in Bourges (France).

As every year, the Polish schools took part in an international arts competition organized on 10 May by College J.Y. Custeau-les-Elbeuf in France as part of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Project on the anniversary of the abolition of slavery. Janusz Korczak Primary School from Czerwiesk took part in the “Clean Air” project.

A number of associated schools took part in the Model United Nations simulations: General Education School Complex No. 5 from Wrocław and Private Lower-Secondary and Secondary School in Lublin sent six students to WrocMUN 2015; I Secondary School in Koszalin sent eight students to StetiMUN 2015 organized in Szczecin; I Secondary School in Koszalin sent ten students to BALMUN 2015 in Rostock; and students from the Private Lower-Secondary and Secondary School in Lublin took part in PadMUN 2015.

Students from the Catholic General Education School Complex in Katowice obtained certificates of completion of an online course on sustainable development run by the Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University as part of the Young Master Programme. A delegation from the above-mentioned school from Katowice also took part in the 29th Caretakers of the Environment International Conference in Portugal. At the conference, the students presented their project entitled “From tap to the ocean”.

Teachers from schools belonging to the Network presented good practices in artistic and cultural education at an International Conference entitled “Cultural Education – Towards Innovative and Creative Society. The Need for Arts Education at Modern School”, held in Łódź by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with EC1 Łódź – the City of Culture and the National Centre for Culture on 17–18 September 2015. ●

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Intercultural Education

In 2015, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO organized two subsequent regional workshops on intercultural education “In the World of Islam”, this time for teachers of all levels of Polish schools in the Świętokrzyskie and Wielkopolskie provinces. They were the tenth and eleventh workshops carried out as part of a project that our Commission started in 2005. The two-day programme (a lecture day and a workshop day) on 24 and 25 April 2015, in the Świętokrzyskie Teacher Training Centre, was attended by 66 teachers from across the province. The other edition of the workshop project, held at Poznań’s Teacher Training Centre,

on 16 and 17 October 2015, saw 100 teachers attending the two-days meeting. The main goal of the project was to prepare Polish schools for the challenges of Europe’s intercultural reality and to try to somewhat fill the gap in this respect in the Polish education system. At the request of the teachers, additional block was added to the programme, devoted to problems of multicultural classes and the issue of Polish children coming back to the country after years of emigration, and the challenges they are facing while adjusting to the Polish school reality. Over five years of the project implementation, we have trained more than 800 teachers from all levels of Polish schools



Regional workshops of intercultural education “In the World of Islam” for teachers of all levels of schools in the Wielkopolska Province, October 2015. Photo: Polish National Commission for UNESCO

and have gained excellent assessments from both the teachers and the staff of the teacher training centers where the workshops were held.

The teacher workshops launched in 2010 were another stage of the “In the World of Islam” project, which previously featured workshops for almost 1000 students of post-primary schools in all regions of Poland (2005–2008), workshops for teachers of the Polish Associated Schools network (2007), workshops for teachers from the Baltic states (2009) and the publication of didactic materials (twenty ready-made lesson modules), issued in Polish and English languages (2007, 2009).

The success of the whole project was possible thanks to the efforts by a group of excellent teachers, experts on the Arab and Muslim region countries and on multi- and intercultural education: Professors Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska, Katarzyna Pachniak, Barbara Weigl, Janusz Danecki, Marek Dziekan, Jerzy Zdanowski, Bogusław R. Zagórski, director of

the Ibn Khaldun Institute; and workshop teachers Dr hab. Katarzyna Górak-Sosnowska, Dr Magdalena Kubarek, Dalia Nazmi, Dr Magdalena Nowaczek-Walczak, Dr Magdalena Pinker, Dr Katarzyna Pechcin, Dr Magdalena El Ghamari, Joanna Grzymała-Moszczyńska, Paulina Szydłowska and Dr Izabela Czerniejewska.

The implementation of the latest stage of the “In the World of Islam” project – educational workshops for teachers – was possible due to funding from the Ministry of National Education, which supported the project from its launch in 2010 to the last two editions organized in 2015. In 2016, the project is carried out by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with the Pomorskie Regional Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Regional workshops of intercultural education “In the World of Islam” for teachers of all levels of schools in the Świętokrzyskie Province, April 2015. Photo: © Ilona Morżo / Polish National Commission for UNESCO

UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme at the AGH-UNESCO Chair in Krakow

The AGH-UNESCO Chair for Science, Technology and Engineering Education is one of UNESCO Chairs operating in Poland. It is the first such institution in Poland, run under UNESCO auspices that supports university-level education in engineering sciences and inspires and coordinates an integrated system of research and training, as well as supports knowledge exchange and transfer in connection with engineering practice. The AGH-UNESCO Chair's international offer is addressed primarily to developing countries from Asia, Africa, South America and others across the world. The AGH-UNESCO Chair's activities are in line with UNESCO and the AGH - University of Science and Technology priorities.

In the 2015/2016 academic year, the fellows of the AGH-UNESCO Chair completed six-month internships within the UNESCO/Poland co-sponsored Fellowship Programme – edition 2015A (38 young scientists from 18 developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America, including the Caribbean region).

During their stay in Poland, the fellows were made familiar with the AGH-UST educational and teaching infrastructure (including the Main Library, the IT Centre, ACK Cyfronet and selected laboratories) and the University's scientific

potential, and they also took part in classes run as part of the university's English-language subjects offer and others, in accordance with their interests.

The fellows took an active part in seminars and thematic conferences. These included:

- *The Forum of Rail Transport*, Dąbrowa Górnicza, 21 Oct. 2015;
- *UNESCO Interregional Engineering Conference in Technology and Education, Global Benchmarking and Monitoring*, Krakow, 10–13 Dec. 2015;
- *The Winter School of Reliability 2016*, Szczyrk;
- *Transport Systems Telematics Conference*, Ustroń, 17 March 2016.

They also participated in study visits and thematic classes in such places as the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum (in Oświęcim and Brzezinka), the Family Home of John Paul II Museum in Wadowice, the Cracow Saltworks Museum in Wieliczka, and the Jagiellonian University Museum Collegium Maius in Krakow. They also learned about highland traditions (Tatra Mountains, Zakopane), walked along the trail of historic engineering locations (Guido Mine and Królowa Luiza Coal Mine Museum, branch of the Coal Mining Museum in Zabrze), visited the AGH Centre for Sustainable Development and Conservation of Energy in Miękinia, and had the

opportunity to find out more about the culture and traditions of Krakow. On 3 March 2016, the AGH-UNESCO Chair organized a Multicultural Day, when fellows from 25 countries presented their traditions and cultures.

During their stay in Krakow, young scientists from developing countries took part in a series of thematic meetings with the authorities of the AGH University of Science and Technology, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange, and the city of Krakow. The meetings were an opportunity for discussion, exchange of experiences and an inspiration for AGH-UST to continue international cooperation with potential partners from the fellows' countries of origin.

On 4 March 2016, the AGH University of Science and Technology held a debate gathering the 2015A edition fellows, entitled "The importance of education in the field of technical science and engineering for the countries of origin, and expectations from UNESCO". The meeting was attended by Professor Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. The debate featured fellows from 21 countries (Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Colombia, Cuba, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Republic of South Africa, Republic of Cabo Verde, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). The seminar was moderated by Professor Janusz Szpytko, head of the AGH-UNESCO Chair, which organized the debate.



Beneficiaries of the UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme, edition 2015A, in a group photo with the President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, Professor Jacek Purchla and AGH-UNESCO Chairholder, Professor Janusz Szpytko, 29 March 2016. Photo: © AGH-UNESCO Chair.

The fellows (young scientists) expressed a belief that engineering science education and development of domestic engineering are important for promoting national economic growth and improving living standards for society. Education plays a pivotal role in the accumulation of human capital and contributes to achieving sustainable economic development by countries. The participants in the debate concluded that the UNESCO/Poland Fellowships Programme at the AGH-UNESCO Chair provided them with a unique opportunity to live in a multicultural community, learn foreign languages in practice and take part in various undertakings focusing on engineering education and research, as well as strengthening knowledge about Poland and the world. A number expressed the need to use the acquired knowledge and practice and new skills to promote development in their own countries in the future.

Summing up the debate, Professor Sławomir Ratajski said that education contributes to building international peace, promoting tolerance among people coming from different countries. The debate featured various opinions resulting from cultural diversity and differences in economic development and current social and economic situation in the participants' countries of origin.

Professor Janusz Szpytko said that the fellows' stay at the AGH-UNESCO Chair let them better identify their own needs as far as the access to advanced technologies and various electronic resources are concerned, and also made it possible to analyze the possibilities of adapting various technologies in the fellows' home countries. The needs of their countries of origins should be expressed and identified by the fellows themselves



AGH-UNESCO Chair fellows with their scientific supervisor, Professor Janusz Szpytko, during a presentation of academic papers at the International Conference entitled "Transport Systems Telematics Conference" in Ustroń, 17 March 2016. Photo © AGH-UNESCO Chair

due to a better perspective of viewing the problems, as well as ways of resolving them.

On 4 March 2016, the AGH University of Science and Technology held a consultative meeting of UNESCO Chairs operating in Poland, with Professor Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. The debate was hosted by the AGH-UNESCO Chair for Science, Technology and Engineering. The meeting was an opportunity to exchange experiences on the initiatives undertaken by the Chairs that focused on UNESCO's priorities and those of their own institutions. Special attention was paid to the role of multiculturalism in activities aimed at promoting global peace, particularly through dialogue, and the issues of shaping competencies in engineering and human sciences. The participants stressed UNESCO's stance on science, which confirms growing global awareness of the importance of scientific research and innovation for sustainable economic and social development of particular countries. During the debate, the participants said it was necessary to take action to integrate the Krakow community of UNESCO Chairs.

29 March 2016 saw yet another ceremony of granting certificates to the participants of the UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme, 2015A edition. This meeting with the fellows of the current edition, was attended by Professor Dr. hab. Jacek Purchla, the President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO; Dr. Grzegorz Waliński, Poland's former ambassador to Nigeria; Łukasz Peryga, MA, of the Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange; and the fellows' scientific supervisors:

Professor Dr hab. engineer Piotr Czaja (Faculty of Mining and Geoengineering), Professor Dr hab. engineer Jan Golonka (Faculty of Geology, Geophysics and Environmental Protection) and Dr hab. Maria Nawojczyk, associate professor at AGH-UST (Faculty of Humanities). The seminar was moderated by Professor Dr hab. engineer Janusz Szpytko, head of the AGH-UNESCO Chair and the fellows' scientific supervisor.

Professor Jacek Purchla congratulated the fellows on choosing the historic city of Krakow as their home and the AGH University of Science and Technology as an educational institution with a long-standing tradition. He then went on to thank AGH authorities for their valuable initiative of setting up the AGH-UNESCO Chair for Science, Technology and Engineering, whose activities are closely aligned with international educational and scientific cooperation and with UNESCO's mission in the world. He also thanked Head of AGH-UNESCO Chair, Professor J. Szpytko, and all AGH-UST personnel directly involved in scientific supervision for their time and professional involvement in education and promotion of engineering.

Professor Jacek Purchla said that UNESCO is associated with indisputable prestige and brand of an organization which, after nearly 70 years of existence, associates almost 200 countries. The Organization is welcome on all continents, not only for effective protection of natural and cultural heritage, but also for its activity in the fields of science, education, culture and communication. UNESCO's patronage or a site inscribed on the World Heritage List bring significant benefits to a given country or project.



Multicultural Day at the AGH-UNESCO Chair, 3 March 2016. Photo: © Woźniak D./AGH-UNESCO Chair

Later, during the meeting the fellows shared their own observations and experiences from their stay at the university. They stressed that time spent in Krakow was very valuable, both in the areas of science and education and in the social, cultural and cognitive dimensions, and that the AGH-UNESCO Chair's initiatives were very beneficial for them personally in the context of their future careers, personal development and also in view of promoting the technology and engineering education on an international level, and building friendships and future professional cooperation.

- **Arun Kumar Yadav (India):** First of all, I would like to thank the AGH-UNESCO Chair for the opportunity to participate in this prestigious project. I had the chance to be part of an international team of people from different countries, to get to know their lifestyles, traditions and to understand the differences between us. I have also learned to work hard. One cannot be bored at the AGH-UST. Its great infrastructure for the needs of education and science, relaxation, culture and sports make it possible for everyone to find something interesting to do.
- **Adil Nawaz (Pakistan):** My stay at the AGH-UNESCO Chair has been an inspiration for me to take up post-graduate (MSc) studies at the AGH's Faculty of Geology, Geophysics and Environmental Protection. Pakistan is a developing country with vast resources of coal, oil, gas and other minerals, so knowledge of the technologies of extracting resources from our planet is important. Pakistan lacks technical personnel and modern technologies. I think Poland is a leader in the mining industry. It was here that I understood how big impact an engineer has on the future of the environment and the surroundings in which we live.
- **Julie Stephany Berrío Pérez (Colombia):** My stay in Krakow as part of the fellowship programme resulted in four scientific papers. I believe that working with an international group of young scientists from all over the world is enriching due to the people you meet, friendships that offer prospects of continuation in various fields and the possibility to find out more about the history of Poland and different countries of the world, and in particular the milestones in the development of humankind and technology.
- **Hansel Martinez (Cuba):** The stay in Krakow offered technical education, gaining experiences and professional qualifications as well as knowledge of Polish culture. Krakow is a city of young residents, a university city where you can meet students from various corners of the world, a city of cultural heritage and great atmosphere. I would like to thank the AGH-UNESCO Chair's authorities for inspiring us to learn, for improving our skills of clear expression and reporting, and of undertaking creative professional activity. This was one of the most important experiences in my life.

On 29 April 2016, a science and technology seminar was held in Sosnowiec, on the occasion of 2016 Metallurgists' Day of the SITPH (Polish Association of Metallurgical Engineers and Technicians), attended by the AGH-UNESCO Chair internship fellows. During the seminar, they presented the following papers:

1. Steel industry in Mongolia, Enkhtur Badralt, Mongolia;
2. Steel industry in Tajikistan, Higmat Saidov, Tajikistan;
3. Steel and iron industry in Pakistan, Adil Nawaz, Pakistan;
4. How strong is the steel industry in Mexico? Palacios Miguel, Pérez Enrique, Mexico;
5. The traditional metallurgy process in Togo, Carlos Attisso Messangan, Togo;
6. Steel industries' needs in Mali, Adama Samake, Mali;
7. Sustainable attitudes to reduce the cost of energy and protect the environment, Carla M. M. Tavares, Cape Verde.

The addresses by AGH-UNESCO Chair fellows focused on the condition of the steel industry in selected developing countries (Mongolia, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Mexico) and the need to develop the industry from the perspective of selected countries (Mali, Togo). They presented a sustainable and ecological approach to reducing energy costs in energy-intensive industries. •

Prof. Dr. engineer Janusz Szpytko

AGH-UNESCO Chairholder
AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow

Polish anniversaries celebrated under UNESCO auspices in 2014–2015

At its 37th session in November 2013, the UNESCO General Conference adopted a resolution on anniversaries celebrated under UNESCO auspices in 2014–2015. Polish anniversaries were put forward by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, with the support from the Polish National Commission for UNESCO.

The list included anniversaries of five outstanding representatives of Polish culture: the 200th anniversary of the birth of Oskar Kolberg (1814–1890) and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Andrzej Panufnik (1914–1991), both celebrated in 2014, as well as the 200th anniversary of the death of Jan Nepomucen Potocki (1791–1815), the 250th anniversary of the birth of Michał Kleofas Ogiński (1765–1833) and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Tadeusz Kantor (1915–1990), all commemorated in 2015.

The inclusion of Polish anniversaries on UNESCO's prestigious list offered a chance to present the works of these individuals and also the importance of their contribution to Polish and global culture.

Michał Ogiński's anniversary –jointly supported by three countries: Poland, Lithuania and Belarus – became an opportunity to organize joint events in each of them. ●



The 200th anniversary of the birth of Oskar Kolberg

The programme for Oskar Kolberg's anniversary celebration, established by a resolution of the Sejm (Polish Parliament), was particularly varied. The events marking the birth anniversary of the Polish folklore researcher became an opportunity for discussion on intangible heritage and the UNESCO Convention of 2003. The whole year featured concerts, as well as educational, promotional and publishing activities, including a ceremonial

inauguration of the Year of Kolberg in the Oskar Kolberg Museum in Przysucha and in the Warsaw Philharmonic, a website devoted to the researcher, an interactive guide to Kolberg's Poland, and digitization of manuscripts and published volumes of Kolberg's works, making them accessible to the public. An official unveiling was also held of Kolberg's renovated gravestone in the Rakowicki Cemetery in Krakow. The events included a presentation of 'A report on traditional music and traditional dance' by the Institute of Music and Dance and an exhibition devoted to Oskar Kolberg against the background of 19th century history and culture. To mark the anniversary, numerous conferences devoted to Kolberg's work were also organized, notably the 6th edition of the traditional music festival "All the World's Mazurkas. Kolberg's Poland" in Warsaw, "The Work of Oskar Kolberg as National and European Heritage" in Poznań, "Kolberg's Year – and What Next?", organized by the Institute of Music and Dance in Radziejowice. The ceremonies closing the celebrations, combined with a presentation of awards to key representatives of the traditional culture community, were held in Warsaw on 11 December and were attended by the Minister of Culture and the National Heritage, Professor Małgorzata Omilanowska.

a presentation of Panufnik's compositions during the Witold Lutosławski Chain XI Festival, concerts by the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice devoted to the composer, orchestra and choir concerts at the Academy of Music in Krakow and an international academic session. The opening of the Andrzej Panufnik Avenue and a meeting with the composer's wife, Lady Camilla Panufnik, took place in Warsaw's Park, Morskie Oko. On the occasion of the anniversary, Polskie Wydawnictwo Muzyczne published a book called *Andrzej Panufnik. Architekt emocji* (*Andrzej Panufnik. An Architect of Emotions*). The 28th edition of the Warsaw Music Encounters Festival was also devoted to Panufnik's music.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**100th anniversary of
the birth of Andrzej Panufnik**
Celebrated in association with UNESCO

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Andrzej Panufnik

The diverse anniversary programme that covered concerts, recordings, as well as educational, promotional and publishing activities, as part of the jubilee celebrations, was carried out by the Institute of Music and Dance in collaboration with the Union of Polish Composers, the Witold Lutosławski Society, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, the National Audiovisual Institute and Polish Radio. The international ceremonies started on 5 February 2015 with a concert of Panufnik's compositions performed by the London Symphony Orchestra in London Barbican Hall. The ceremonies included



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**200th anniversary of the death
of Jan Nepomucen Potocki**
Celebrated in association with UNESCO

The 200th anniversary of the death of Jan Potocki

Jan Potocki's anniversary was officially inaugurated at the Castle Museum in Łańcut and was attended by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Professor Małgorzata Omilanowska. On this occasion, an international academic conference entitled "Jan Potocki after 200 years" was co-organized by universities in Lausanne and Montpellier. The Castle in Łańcut opened monographic exhibitions called "In a family circle" and "Grand Tour – or Jan Potocki's life journey" and "Illustrations to the Manuscript Found in Saragossa". A postage stamp issued by Poczta Polska to mark the anniversary was also presented.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

**100th anniversary of
the birth of Tadeusz Kantor**
Celebrated in association with UNESCO

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Tadeusz Kantor

A series of events were held in Poland and abroad to spread knowledge about Tadeusz Kantor. The rich programme included various activities: from a cross section retrospective of Kantor's works in

Sao Paulo and an exhibition of his works in Japan, both prepared by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, to film, publishing and educational projects.

The 13th Warsaw Art Fair was one of the events devoted to Tadeusz Kantor. The exhibition in the Kubicki Arcades of the Royal Castle in Warsaw consisted of paintings, drawings, posters and stage designs.



250th anniversary of the birth of Michał Kleofas Ogiński
Celebrated in association with UNESCO

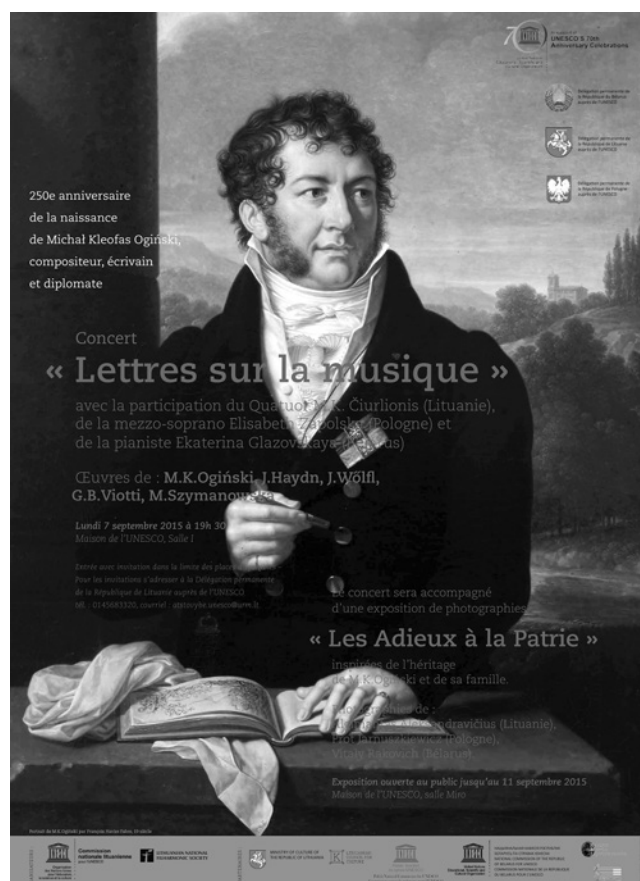
The 250th anniversary of the birth of Michał Kleofas Ogiński

The anniversary was held under UNESCO auspices as a joint anniversary of three countries: Poland, Lithuania and Belarus. Each country organized a number of commemorative events marking Ogiński's legacy. The ceremonies in Lithuania included the unveiling of the composer's monument in Rekowo, the opening of the renovated Ogińskis'

palace in Plungė and the issuance of an anniversary coin and postage stamp.

Joint ceremonies were also held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. They included a concert marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ogiński, organized jointly by Poland's Embassy in Paris, Poland's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and the Embassies of Lithuania and Belarus in Paris. The event was accompanied by a photographic exhibition devoted to Ogiński's life and work, prepared by national commissions for UNESCO from Lithuania, Belarus and Poland. The exhibition comprised works of three photographic artists from Lithuania (Algimantas Aleksandravicius), Belarus (Vitaly Rakovich) and Poland (Prot Jarnuszkiewicz). The ceremonies were attended by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, representatives of artistic milieus and the composer's descendants. Due to the anniversary, also the 8th Duke Michał Kleofas Ogiński International Festival in Iwonicz Zdrój was exceptionally celebrated.

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A poster published on the occasion of Michał Kleofas Ogiński 250th anniversary of birth.

Our publications



Edukacja poprzez kulturę. Kreatywność i innowacyjność

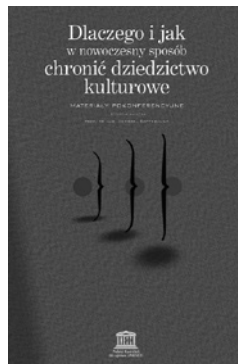
*(Education through Culture:
Creativity and Innovation)*

Edited by Dorota Ilczuk and Sławomir Ratajski

Warsaw, 2011, published by the Polish National
Commission for UNESCO

ISBN 978-83-902939-7-4

The book is a collection of articles organized into two chapters: "The role of culture in shaping a creative society" and "The new educational challenges". The authors present the benefits from cultural heritage in formal and informal education according to their scientific and professional experience. The appendix contains UNESCO's basic documents on Arts Education translated into Polish, as well as selected examples of educational initiatives carried out in European countries. ●



Dlaczego i jak w nowoczesny sposób chronić dziedzictwo kulturowe

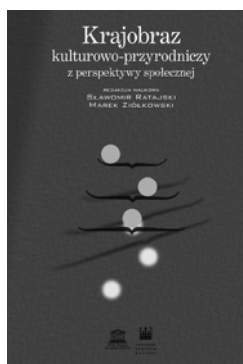
*(Why and How to Protect
Cultural Heritage by Modern Means)*

Edited by Andrzej Rottermund

Warsaw, 2014, published by the Polish National
Commission for UNESCO

ISBN 978-83-902939-8-1

The publication is an attempt to address the question of contemporary approach to the protection of cultural heritage on the basis of UNESCO's normative instruments and their implementation in Poland. The articles are written by outstanding experts who represent both the theoretical and practical approach. The appendix includes an expert assessment of the implementation of UNESCO legislation to Polish law. ●



Krajobraz kulturowo-przyrodniczy z perspektywy społecznej

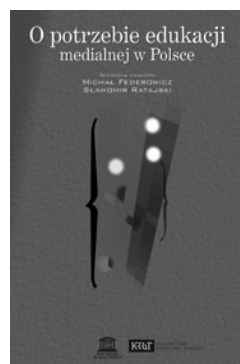
*(Cultural and Natural Landscape
from the Perspective of Society)*

Edited by Sławomir Ratajski and Marek Ziółkowski

Warsaw, 2015, published by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the National Centre for Culture

ISBN 978-83-902939-9-8; 978-83-7982-140-2

The articles focus on the issues of landscape which combines elements of natural and cultural heritage, tangible and intangible. The authors point to the importance of landscape for sustainable development and warn about negative economic consequences and social losses triggered by current uncontrolled urbanization processes. The book contains some solution proposals as well as conclusions from a national debate organized by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and held in Warsaw, in September 2014.



O potrzebie edukacji medialnej w Polsce

*(On the Need for Media Education
in Poland)*

Edited by Michał Fedorowicz and Sławomir Ratajski

Warsaw, 2015, published by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the National Broadcasting Council

ISBN 978-83-943906-0-0

The book is a result of a debate initiated by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO on the scope of education appropriate to face new contemporary challenges and on the need to shape creative and innovative attitudes. Renowned specialists in the fields of media studies, pedagogy, culture studies, sociology, psychology, and media management share their knowledge and experience. The articles highlight the complexity of issues behind the concept of Media and Information Literacy (MIL), introduced by UNESCO.

All the publications are available as e-books at: <http://www.unesco.pl/publikacje-unesco/>

Polish National Commission's Honorary Patronage 2015

Conferences

- XXII Forum on Renewable Reserves, Resources and Energy Technologies EKOENERGETYKA 2015, organized by the AGH-University of Science and Technology (Krakow, 24–25 April 2015).
- "Cyberspace and Virtual Worlds – Master and Apprentice in a Virtual World", organized by The Maria Grzegorzewska University (Warsaw, 15 May 2015).
- "Polychrome and Sgraffiti on the Facades of Old Town Centers Reconstructed after 1945 – Creation and Conservation", organized by the Bureau of the Warsaw Municipal Office for Heritage Protection (Warsaw, 24–25 September 2015).
- Third National Conference on "Light Pollution", organized by the POLARIS-OPP Association (Krakow, 25–27 September 2015).
- "Copyright in the Digital Age" – a conference organized on the occasion of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, by the Institute of National Remembrance (Warsaw, 27 October 2015).
- "Points of View on Translator's Competence and Translation Quality", organized by the UNESCO

Chair for Translation Studies and Intercultural Communication at the Jagiellonian University (Krakow, 27 November 2015).

- VIII Conference on "Respect for Human Rights and Freedoms – The Global Context" organized by the Department of Applied Social Sciences, Faculty of Organization and Management, Silesian University of Technology (Zabrze, 10 December 2015).

Contests and competitions

- VII Foundation of Local Democracy Annual Prize, granted to local governments and individuals for their achievements in developing local democracy in Poland, building relationships and local traditions, and for mobilizing local communities to work together. The conference and prize awarding event organized in February 2015.
- VII edition of the competition "Polish Village – the Heritage and the Future", organized by the Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture. The competition serves to promote the role of culture and heritage protection in rural areas, and thereby enrich the public debate of Poland's countryside heritage.

- III edition of the Great Media Education Competition (WTEM). Organized by the Modern Poland Foundation (November 2015–February 2016).
- VIII regional-level competition of photographic art for school youth “Lux ex Silesia”, organized by Silesian Insurgents High School in Bieruń, Bieruńsko-Lędziński County, and the Bieruń Culture Center. (The results announced on 18 June 2015).

Festivals

- XXII International “Masters and Youngsters, or Jazz in Krakow” Festival, organized by the Jazz Krakow Art and Education Society (April and May 2015).
- “The Place of Jazz in Our Lives”. An intimate concert and a discussion on jazz in Kalinowe Serce Club (Warsaw, 30 April 2015).
- Katowice Jazz Art Festival, organized by Katowice Cultural Institution – a City of Gardens (21–30 April 2015).
- XXV International Festival of the Fine Arts “Color Art” (Goleniów, 27–31 May 2015).
- VIII Sumer Jazz Academy in Łódź, organized by the Wytwórnia Foundation (2 July–3 September 2015).
- “Open Gardens Festival” (Józefów, 30 May–1 June; Podkowa Leśna, 6–8 June).
- III World Festival of Wicker and Weaving in Nowy Tomyśl, organized by the Polish National Association of Weavers and Wickerwork-makers (21–23 August 2015).
- The 30th AFF – Film Era Festiwal on „The 1930s:” A film review and education workshops for young people, organized by Youth Cultural Centre Pałac Młodzieży in Bydgoszcz (22–25 September 2015).

Other initiatives

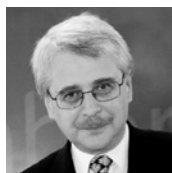
- Celebration of the World Information Society Day (17 May), organized by the Polish Information Processing Society (March – May 2015).
- “Poznań at Night in Neon Lights”, an exhibition organized by the National Museum in Poznań as part of the International Year of Light celebrations (27 March – 7 June 2015).
- Lost Museum Project, organized by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Art Foundation, as part of the European Night of Museums (16 May 2015).
- World concert premiere of the Olga Bo opera at the Krakow Opera, prepared by the Perspektywy Foundation for the Development of Social Initiatives, as part of the celebrations marking the 150th birth anniversary of Olga Boznańska (10 June 2015).
- English-language summer camps in Toruń, Tczew and Załęcz Wielkie. A commercial undertaking, organized jointly and with the participation of the teachers and staff of the Kościuszko Foundation in New York (July 2015).
- “(Un)easy returns home? Functioning of children and youth returning from emigration”, a research project, carried out by a team of psychologists from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow (April–December 2015).

Events organized by UNESCO Associated Schools

- XXI National Competition for the ‘Literary Arbuz Laurel’¹, organized by the II Secondary School in Tomaszów Mazowiecki (November 2015).
- IV Interschool contest about Zabrze, organized by the II Secondary School in Zabrze, (November 2015).

¹ “Arbuz” (Watermelon), a colloquial phrase describing a ‘big-head’, i.e. someone with a ‘knowledgeable head’

Members of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO



Prof. Dr hab. Jacek Purchla; Vice-President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO (since 2011). Head of UNESCO Chair in Heritage and Urban Studies and Chair in Economic and Social History at Krakow University of Economics, Chair in European Heritage at Krakow's Jagiellonian University. Founder and Director of the International Cultural Centre in Krakow (since 1991).



Prof. Dr hab. Sławomir Ratajski; Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Chairholder at the Faculty of Media Art of Warsaw's Academy of Fine Arts, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Argentina (2001-2005), Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture (1997-1999).



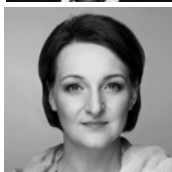
Dr hab. Aleksander Stepkowski, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration, Warsaw University.; Director of the Centre for English and European Legal Studies at the Law Faculty (1998-1999). Scholar of the Foundation for Polish Science, Manchester University, Oxford University and Catholic University in Leuven.



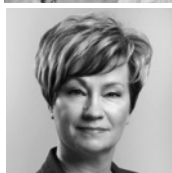
Zbigniew Czech, Director of the Department of the UN System and Human Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (since February 2016). In the Ministry since 2012, inter alia as: Deputy Director of the Legal and Treaty Department (2009-2012); Acting Director of the Department of the Americas (2012), Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Paris (2012-2014).



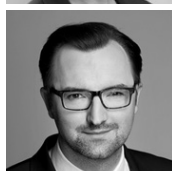
Prof. Dr hab. Aleksander Bobko, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Philosopher and ethicist, Rector (2012-2015) and professor of the University of Rzeszów, and the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow. Senator of the Republic of Poland (since 2015). Author of 50 publications, including 6 books in Polish, German and English.



Dr hab. Magdalena Gawin, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and Chief Monuments Conservator (since November 2015). Formerly worked in the Institute of History at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Initiator of the Centre for Studies on totalitarianism (2016). Author of publications on the history of the Polish eugenics movement, studies and articles in academic press. Member of the international Working Group on the History of Race and Eugenics (HRE), affiliated with Oxford Brooks University (since 2006).



Marzenna Drab, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of National Education (since 2015); Vice-Governor of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship (2006-2007); Deputy Chief-Executive of the Aleksandrow County (2012-2014); member of the Sejm (Polish Parliament), (VI term) where she sat on the Public Finances and State Treasury committees.



Sławomir Mazurek, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of the Environment. Previously: Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection in Olsztyn, press spokesman to the Minister of the Environment (2006-2007). Member of the Polish delegation to the Climate Change Conference in Nairobi and the Session of the UN General Assembly held in 2007 in New York. Member of the Association for Sustainable Development of Poland and the Respublica Academic Corporation.

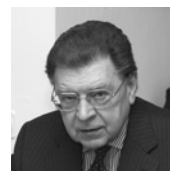


Witold Kołodziejski, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Digital Affairs. Previously: Chair of the National Broadcasting Council (2007-2010); Deputy Mayor of the Ursynów District of the capital city of Warsaw; councillor in the regional council of the Mazovian Voivodeship. Journalist, publisher and TV producer in the public broadcasting corporation.



Dawid Lasek, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Sport and Tourism. Formerly Science Secretary to the Polish-French European Studies, University of Paris 13, IUT de Saint Denis; manager of crossborder projects (since 2001) and Vice-President of the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland (since 2007); Director of the Department of Regional Cooperation at the Ministry of Regional Development (2006-2007).

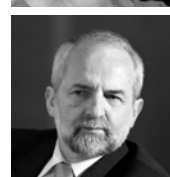
Prof. Dr hab. Andrzej Rottermund, President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO (since 2011), art historian, Director of the Royal Castle in Warsaw, Chairman of the Association of Art Historians (1987-1991), President of the Polish National Committee of ICOM (International Council of Museums) (1990-1996). Correspondent Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Author of more than a hundred books, articles and essays on the history of art, Polish architecture and the Royal Castle collection.



Prof. Dr hab. Ewa Bartnik, biologist, researcher at the Institute of Genetics and Biotechnology of Warsaw University's Faculty of Biology, and at the Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Biochemistry and Bioethics. Member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (IBC). Represented Poland on the UNESCO Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee, IGBC (2005-2009).



Dr hab. Juliusz Braun, Chairman of the Board of Polish Television (since 2011), President of the National Broadcasting Council (1999-2003), Solidarity Citizen's Committee Member of Polish Parliament (1989-1999), Chairperson of the Culture and Media Committee (for two terms). Publicist, author of numerous publications on culture and the media. Head of the Information Commission at the Polish National Commission for UNESCO (since 1992).



Prof. Dr hab. Mieczysław Choraży, head of the Tumour Biology Department at the Centre for Translational Research and Molecular Biology of Cancer, Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology, Gliwice Branch (1951-1995), Ordinary Member of the Polish Academy of Science, and Full Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, former President of the Polish Society of Oncology and Vice-President of the European Association for Cancer Research. Holder of honoris causa degrees from two Medical Universities.



Małgorzata Dzieduszycka-Ziemilska, co-organiser of the Wrocław International Open Theatre Festival (1973-1981). Consul-General of the Republic of Poland in Montreal (1992-1996), Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Poland to UNESCO in Paris (2000-2003), Minister Plenipotentiary for Polish-Jewish Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chairperson of the Polish Council of the European Movement.



Prof. Dr hab. Leszek Kolankiewicz, Director, Centre de civilisation polonaise in Paris and Professor of Slavonic Studies at the Paris-Sorbonne (Paris-IV) University, Director of the Warsaw University Institute of Polish Language and Culture (2005-2012), President of The Committee on Cultural Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (2007-2011). Headed team of experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage, established by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage (2010-2012).



Prof. Dr hab. Michał Kleiber, President of the Polish Academy of Sciences (since 2007), Minister of Science and Information Technology (2001-2005), formerly director of the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, President of the State Committee for Scientific Research and Chairman of the Governmental Committee for Offset Contracts. *Pro bono* advisor to the President of the Republic of Poland on science and technology (2006-2010).



Prof. Dr hab. Andrzej Paszewski, geneticist, head of The Genetics Department at the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences (1981-2008), Institute Director (1982-1984), President of the Polish Genetics Society (1995-1998), and Chairperson of the Warsaw Scientific Society (2001-2007), Member of the Bioethics Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences.



Prof. Dr hab. Marek Ziółkowski, sociologist. Senator of the Republic of Poland (since 2005), Deputy Speaker of the Senate (2005-2011), Head of the Social and Human Sciences Commission in the Polish National Commission for UNESCO (since 1992), Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme (1999-2003). Chairman of the Sociology and Political Science Section in the State Committee for Scientific Research (1991-2000).



Prof. Dr hab. Jerzy Hausner, Professor of Economic Sciences; works in the Department of Public Economy and Administration at Krakow University of Economics, Rector's Plenipotentiary for Culture and Sport. Member of: the Polish Economic Society, the Monetary Policy Council (2010-2016), the Economics Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Committee on Labour and Social Policy Sciences. Since 2014 in the Bruegel, Brussels, European and Global Economic Laboratory.



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