

Memory, Identity and Responsible Tourism along the European Waterways

*Towards a European Partnership among Institutions, Museums and Associations devoted to River Navigation
for the promotion of a Slow, Responsible Tourism along Waterways and Historic Canals
through their Cultural, Natural, Landscape and Typical Local Food Heritage*

WORKSHOP

Catajo Castle (Battaglia Terme, Padova) and Palazzo Zorzi (Venice)
October 12-13, 2012

Why a slow, “responsible” tourism along the European Waterways?

The heritage of historic waterways and artificial canals represents a significant aspect of the European identity. The increase in value and the restoration of this cultural, natural and landscape heritage are crucial to foster a more “responsible” tourism *vis à vis* the need to protect and safeguard for future generations precious water environments. To wait and not to act, would imply too expensive future investments.

Under the aegis of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice), the workshop among Institutions and Museums devoted to river navigation is aimed to promote a European Partnership in order to support more sustainable tourism practices on historic waterways, by using ecological means of transport: preferably traditional wooden boats, or small boats with solar / low energy power motors, but also paths and routes to be enjoyed on foot, by bicycle, or horse riding. Such an approach aims to foster an authentic dimension of “slowness” in the perspective of a lasting, sustainable development in the long run. In this process, also the local, typical food specialities and the rural accommodation in restored, traditional buildings play an important role. With this approach different European waterways, and among them those included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO and in the Programme “Man & Biosphere”, will be fostered.

Evidence at European level

The European waterways:

- represent a potential source for socio-economic growth *vis à vis* some insufficiently exploited resources (cultural heritage, typical food economies, environmental pedagogy)
- are key drivers to communicate to a large audience many ambitions in terms of lasting, sustainable development
- represent a unique heritage to promote a responsible, slow tourism that can preserve these artefacts from a cultural and environmental point of view

Some realistic objectives

The workshop is aimed to:

- promote at European level a more coordinated management of “slow” tourism practices along historic waterways in order to foster their cultural and natural heritage (monuments, landscape and environment, with the related recreational activities including: typical local food tasting and farm holidays accommodation)
- create a lasting Partnership of Institutions and Museums devoted to promote responsible tourism practices along European waterways (European River Navigation Partnership for Responsible Tourism)
- discuss on how to build a common vision of the future and of the priorities related to responsible/slow tourism
- compare different good practices
- create new job opportunities
- generate economies of scale and greater efficiency

Meeting's Keywords

river navigation, responsible tourism along waterways, typical local food, recreational uses, restored traditional buildings, environment, landscape, new job opportunities, historical cartography, sustainability, EU project planning.

**Two days to exchange experiences, discuss and decide together
future strategies and perspectives for the development of a Responsible,
Sustainable Tourism along European waterways**

Agenda

DAY 1 - October 12th - Battaglia Terme (Padova), Catajo Castle

8,45 - 13,00: **Workshop Session 1** (by invitation only)

The contribution of different river navigation institutions and museums from various countries (UK, France, Spain, Netherlands, Italy, Serbia) to develop "responsible" tourism practices along waterways and the European partnership: good practices, orientations, trends, common visions, challenges, differences, potential convergences, and the axes to be improved at short and long term.

14,00: **Happening with traditional caorlinas**, historic wooden boats (curated by *El bisàto* rowing boat association)

14,30 - 17,30: **Navigation to Venice** along the Venetian historic waterways (by invitation only).

DAY 2 - October 13th - Venice, Palazzo Zorzi, UNESCO Venice Office

9,30 - 11,30: **Workshop Session 2** (by invitation only)

A common vision: drafting of possible scenarios in order to achieve a common strategy for the future

11,30: **Press Conference** (open to the public)

First steps towards a Partnership of Institutions and Museums devoted to promote a Responsible Tourism along European Waterways (European River Navigation Partnership for Responsible Tourism)

12,00: Public bestowal of the **6th Water Civilization International Award** to Riccardo Cappelozza, "the last boatman" (curated by Centro Internazionale Civiltà dell'Acqua)

12,30: **From London to Istanbul: "by fair means" along the European Waterways. Video projection** of the voyage of Giacomo De Stefano (Man on the River project)

14,00 - 15,00: De briefing - workshop conclusion (by invitation only)

Workshop participants (by invitation only)

Milena Bertani, **Federparchi**, Gianni Biasetto, **Ente Parco Colli Euganei**, Lucia Boaretto, **Municipality of Battaglia Terme**, Francesco Calzolaio, **Venti di Cultura**, Riccardo Cappelozza, **River Navigation Museum Battaglia Terme**, Inmaculada Rodríguez Casado, **Archivo Confederación Hidrográfica Del Duero**, Maria Dalla Francesca, **Catajo Castle**, Daniele Donà, **Municipality of Battaglia Terme**, Eriberto Eulisse, **Centro Internazionale Civiltà dell'Acqua** and **River Navigation Museum Battaglia Terme**, Antonio Finotti, **Cariparo Foundation**, Marino Finozzi, **Regione Veneto**, Stefano Fracasso, **GAL Polesine Delta Po**, Pier Francesco Ghetti, **Centro Internazionale Civiltà dell'Acqua**, David Henderson, **The Canal Museum Stoke Bruerne**, Fidel Ramos Ibáñez, **Museo del Canal de Castilla de Villaumbrales**, Dejan Komatina, **International Sava River Basin Commission**, Catherine Leleu, **Voies Navigables de France**, Loredana Margutti, **GAL Patavino**, Daniel Maurois, **Respect.com Bureau information "Patrimoine des Voies Navigables"**, Angela Mazzaruolo, **GAL Delta 2000**, Danielle Moullet, **Musée de la Batellerie de Saint Jean De Losne**, Giancarlo Pegoraro, **GAL Venezia Orientale**, Antonio Piccolo, **Consorzio di Promozione Turistica Padova**, Cesare Poppi, **University of Bologna**, Philippe Pypaert, **UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice)**, Myra Robinson, **Twinning project between the River Navigation Museum Battaglia Terme and The Canal Museum Stoke Bruerne**, Marco Stevanin, **Studio Terra**, Andrew Stumpf, **Canal & River Trust**, Yolanda Valle-Neff, **UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice)**, Francesco Vallerani, **University of Venice Ca' Foscari**, Nico van Laamsweerde, **Dutch Waterways Foundation**, Eugenio Zaggia, **GAL Patavino**.

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