

## 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 Responsible Tourism  
Along Waterways and Historical Canals*

### First working group

**Castello del Catajo (Battaglia Terme, Padua) e Palazzo Zorzi (Venice)**

**12-13 October 2012**

### MEDIA ADVISORY

The International Center Civiltà dell'Acqua, in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) is organizing an International workshop entitled "Memory, Identity and Responsible Tourism along the European Waterways", which will take place on 12 and 13 October. On the first day, the venue of the workshop will be at the premises of the Castel of Catajo in Battaglia Terme (Padua). The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) will host the second day of the event, on 13 October 2012.

The workshop through two days of debates will try to achieve various objectives, such as:

- (1) the promotion at European level of 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);
- (2) the creation of a lasting Partnership of Institutions and Museums devoted to promoting responsible tourism practices along European waterways (European River Navigation Partnership for Responsible Tourism);
- (3) the discussion on how to build a common vision of the future and of the priorities related to responsible/slow tourism;
- (4) the comparison of different good practices;
- (5) the creation of new job opportunities, creating economies of scale and greater efficiency.

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.

Waiting and not acting would imply too expensive future investments.

Under the aegis of UNESCO, 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 by foot, bicycle, or horse. 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 specialties and the rural accommodation in restored, traditional buildings play an important role.

The European waterways are: (1) a potential source for socio-economic growth *vis à vis* some insufficiently exploited resources (cultural heritage, typical food economies, environmental pedagogy); (2) key drivers to communicate to a large audience many ambitions in terms of lasting, sustainable development; and, a unique heritage to promote responsible, slow tourism that can preserve these artefacts from a cultural and environmental point of view.

## AGENDA

### DAY 1 - October 12<sup>th</sup> - Catajo Castle, Battaglia Terme (Padova)

8.45 – 13.00 **Workshop Session 1** (by invitation only)

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 13<sup>th</sup> - Palazzo Zorzi (Venice)

9.30 – 11.30: **Workshop Session 2** (by invitation only)

11.30: **Press Conference** (open to the public)

12.00: Public bestowal of the 6<sup>th</sup> **Water Civilization International Award** to Riccardo Cappelozza, “the last boatman” (curated by Centro Internazionale Civiltà dell’Acqua Onlus)

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, **Comune di Battaglia Terme**, Francesco Calzolaio, **Venti di Cultura**, Riccardo Cappelozza, **Museo Civico della Navigazione Fluviale di Battaglia Terme**, Inmaculada Rodríguez Casado, **Archivo Confederación Hidrográfica Del Duero**, Maria Dalla Francesca, **Castello del Catajo**, Daniele Donà, **Comune di Battaglia Terme**, Eribero Eulisse, **Centro Internazionale Civiltà dell’Acqua e Museo Civico della Navigazione Fluviale di Battaglia Terme**, Antonio Finotti, **Fondazione Cariparo**, 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 Mauroy, **Respect.com Bureau information “Patrimoine des Voies Navigables”**, Angela Mazzaruolo, **GAL Delta 2000**, Danielle Moullet, **Musée de la Batellerie di Saint Jean De Losne**, Giancarlo Pegoraro, **GAL Venezia Orientale**, Antonio Piccolo, **Consorzio di Promozione Turistica Padova**, Cesare Poppi, **Università di Bologna**, Philippe Pypaert, **Ufficio Regionale dell’UNESCO per la Scienza e la Cultura in Europa, Venezia, (Italia)**, Myra Robinson, **Progetto di gemellaggio tra il Museo di Battaglia Terme e Stoke Bruerne Museum**, Marco Stevanin, **Studio Terra**, Andrew Stumpf, **Canal & River Trust**, Yolanda Valle-Neff, **Ufficio Regionale dell’UNESCO per la Scienza e la Cultura in Europa, Venezia, (Italia)**, Francesco Vallerani, **Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia**, Nico van Laamsweerde, **Dutch Waterways Foundation**, Eugenio Zaggia, **GAL Patavino**.

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