Cultural heritage: a local level perspective
Outcomes of the Cultural heritage Meeting in Venice and the World Urban Forum in Naples
Venice: UN Role Model for Cultural Heritage Protection

“In this third millennium facing global changes, we are committed to defending the city against risk of disasters, not only for the safety of citizens, but also to preserve our cultural heritage, and to make it available to humankind in a sustainable and durable way”

Giorgio Orsoni, Mayor of Venice
Venice: a complex and fragile city

- Flooding
- Pollution (past and present)
- Loss of lagoon status (erosion)
- Loss of precious habitats and biodiversity
- Monument and building degradation
- Only-tourism-economy culture
- City population ageing and decrease: loss of “city status”
Venice a world heritage site

- Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 (Venice and its lagoon)
- An extraordinary ensemble of cultural assets: buildings, monuments, paintings, sculpture, book and historical archive
- Also intangible cultural heritage (cultural landscape)
- Venice is currently in the process of creating its UNESCO site management plan
Adaptation to climate change

“ACQUA ALTA”

Adaptation of citizens to floods

Early warning: 23 sirens alarm citizens 3 hours in advance

MOSE - Mobile tidal barrier system
Maintenance of a complex city

- City pavements raising up
- Inner canal dredging
- General urban maintenance

“SPECIAL ANTIFIRE SYSTEM”

The specific architectural characteristics of Venetian buildings increases vulnerability and difficulties in interventions. Freshwater is essential for not damaging cultural assets. A specific network has been created.
A sustainable Climate Action Plan

Venice is involved in several networks

Involving citizens and stakeholders

e.g.
- Mestre wood
- Sustainable mobility
- Innovation in waste cycle
- Social structure and lifestyle of citizens
City to city collaboration and twinnings
Venice and Byblos
Venice and Duvrovnik

These cities are part of the UNESCO World Heritage list, have a local economy related to tourism and to the port activity, and present similar risks.

Twinnings are part of the National Platform strategy.
Objectives:

- Consider the key role played by disaster risk reduction measures and the protection of cultural heritage;
- Explore climate change adaption policies and plans at local level;
- Facilitate the sharing of good practices by Cities through direct exchanges;
- Build partnerships at local level, through the involvement of new actors.
Summary of the meeting in Venice

PARTICIPANTS

- European mayors
- Representatives of local and national governments working on disaster risk reduction
- Regional organizations: Council of Europe, European Commission
- Private sector
- Three United Nations agencies: UNISDR, UNESCO, UNHABITAT
The Venice Declaration

Building Cities Resilience to Disasters: Protecting Cultural Heritage and Adapting to Climate Change

19-20 March 2011, Venice
Summary of the meeting in Venice

- Session 1: Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Session 2: Cities Resilience to Disasters in a Changing Climate
- Session 3: City to City Exchanges: the Value of Sharing Experiences
- Session 4: Building Partnership
VENICE DECLARATION

d. Support the integration of *heritage concerns into national and local disaster risk reduction policies and plans* and, at the same time, ensure that *disaster risks are taken into consideration within management plans and systems for heritage properties* in their territories, notably for World Heritage Cities;

e. Ensure that *sustainable development strategies reflect disaster risk reduction measures* at the local level for urban sustainability and resilient growth;
Europe’s first champion of urban resilience against disasters and protecting cultural heritage

"Venice can be a world icon, not of fragility, but of resilience with respect to the challenges of global change“
Giorgio Orsoni, Mayor of Venice

- Encourage exchanges of good practices between cities facing the challenges posed by the protection of cultural heritage
- Encourage communities to take advantage of existing sources of information
- Disseminate and promote the objectives of the campaign, in particular the integration of the ten essentials of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign into local risk reduction plans
- Promote a better coordination between local stakeholders
Outcomes at local level

PPROMOTION OF A BETTER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS:

- Venice Municipality and neighboring municipalities sharing part of the lagoon territory

- Veneto Region and national authorities (e.g. suprintendencies in Venice and in the Veneto Region)

- Water Authority of Venice and Consorzio Venezia Nuova

- Cultural and Environmental Associations

- Scientific institutions
A “natural” profitable relationship with NP

ENLARGE THE COMMUNICATION BANDWITH

CITIES

CITIZENS

National Platforms
World Urban Forum in Naples

launch the first Making Cities Resilient Report 2012

how local authorities are building resilience in their communities to improve livelihoods and reduce the risk to people and assets.

Venice is among the cities covered by the report “Living with floods while protecting cultural heritage in Venice”
Vulnerability: *The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters*

- How much vulnerable our societies are to cultural losses?
- After the falling of Roman Empire, we had to wait some centuries to re-discover the perspective in painting, well known in Roman times.
- The “culture”, as we usually consider it, counts only some thousand of years, while “living nature” many million years.

*Francisco Goya, 1797*

Apparently, culture is less resilient than Nature.
Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters

- Cultural heritage protection
- Seismic rules for buildings
- Floods and water-related risks protection
- Fire risks
- Other risks

integrated, multi-hazard approach
Knowledge on Disaster Reduction is created by a pool of actors and expertises:

- Risk knowledge
- Administration skills
- Operative skills
- Awareness & Capacities
- Glue

Categories:
- Scientific Community
- Public Administr.
- Industries
- Citizens
Scientific research in Venice requires a strong coordination effort

CORILA - Consortium for Coordination of Research Activities concerning the Venice Lagoon System

overseen by the Ministry of Research of Italy, is composed by the public research entities more involved in lagoon studies

IUAV University of Padua University Ca’ Foscari National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics National Research Council

CORILA is also the seat of National/European organisations/projects