



MEDHEUS | Project N° 01085693 | ERASMUS-JMO-2022-MODULE

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

Workshop I

Underwater Cultural Heritage and maritime landscapes: EU policies and strategies in the Mediterranean

Workshop I

Património cultural subaquático e paisagens marítimas: Políticas e estratégias europeias no Mediterrâneo

Coord. **Sónia Bombico** (CIDEHUS & MED – University of Évora)

Duration: 6 hours

University of Évora

Workshop Format:

The course is face-to-face and takes place at the University of Évora.

Expository session and interactive class, group discussion in the classroom on previously suggested readings, research, and exploration of online information.

Equipment required:

Laptop or other device that allows online search and selection of information, during the course of the sessions.

Module 1- Underwater Cultural Heritage: EU policies and strategies in the Mediterranean

Módulo 1- Património cultural subaquático: políticas e estratégias europeias no Mediterrâneo

Module description:

Adopted in 2001, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) provides a common legally binding framework for States Parties on how to better identify, research and protect their underwater heritage while ensuring its preservation and sustainability. The convention was promptly ratified by the Euro-Mediterranean countries, which are especially rich in underwater archaeological sites.

The principles of the UNESCO convention, including the protection and fight against commercial exploitation, international cooperation in the enhancement of UCH, and the collaboration between countries in the promotion of training, have been put into practice in the Mediterranean within the framework of projects funded by the European Union.

The Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Council of Europe, 2005) promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society. Consequently, in the last decade underwater cultural heritage has acquired an increasingly important role in sustainable development, especially by strengthening social participation in its protection and promoting cultural tourism.

This workshop will help to better understand EU policies on Underwater Cultural Heritage by analysing good practices and reflecting on challenges for the future.

Learning objectives:

- Know the concepts and principles defined in the UNESCO Convention for the protection of UCH of 2001;
- Discuss EU Policies towards UCH;

- Presenting case studies and good practices in the protection of UCH in the Mediterranean;
- Analyse the protection of UCH in the context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Readings and resources:

UNESCO Website | Protecting Underwater Cultural Heritage

<https://en.unesco.org/underwater-heritage>

BLUEMED project – Interreg Mediterranean

<https://bluemed.interreg-med.eu/>

Manglis, Angelos, Fourkiotou, Anastasia and Papadopoulou, Dimitra (2021) - "A Roadmap for the Sustainable Valorization of Accessible Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites" *Heritage* 4, no. 4: 4700-4715. <https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage4040259>

Module 2- The protection of cultural landscapes in the Euro-Mediterranean region: maritime landscapes

Módulo 2- A proteção das paisagens culturais na região euro-mediterrânica: paisagens marítimas

Module description:

The first application of the specific concept of a *maritime cultural landscape* dates to the middle of the 1970s. Maritime cultural landscape is multi-layered; it includes any hermeneutic kind of human relationship to the sea. For obvious reasons, they are of great importance in the Mediterranean.

The *Mediterranean Landscape Charter* (Sevilla Charter, 1993) was the first document to cover specific issues about the management and protection of Mediterranean landscapes, highlighting the need to protect their natural and cultural heritage.

A few years later, the *European Landscape Convention* (ELC) (Council of Europe, 2000) becomes the first international treaty devoted exclusively to all dimensions of the landscape, with a view to sustainable development. The Convention applies to the entire territory and includes land, inland water and marine areas. According to the Convention “the landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity”. This statement is equally applicable to the Mediterranean region.

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee defines cultural landscapes as geographical areas “representing the combined work of nature and man”. UNESCO plays an important role in the

protection of seascapes through the World Heritage Marine Programme, focusing on the impacts of a changing ocean. Maritime cultural landscapes are particularly at risk following the impacts of climate change and rising sea levels.

In the last decades several projects, financed by European funds, have been dedicated to the development of models of evaluation and sustainable management of maritime cultural landscapes. The current Bauhaus of the Seas project stands out. The vision of the project is to demonstrate and archive solutions for climate neutrality with a particular focus on coastal cities.

This workshop will help to better understand EU policies on maritime cultural landscapes by analysing good practices and reflecting on challenges for the future.

Learning objectives:

- Introduce the concept of cultural landscape, in particular that of maritime cultural landscape;
- Discussing EU policies for the protection of maritime cultural landscapes;
- Presenting case studies and good practices in the preservation of maritime cultural landscapes in the Mediterranean;
- Discuss the sustainability of coastal heritage and cultural seascapes in the face of climate change in the Mediterranean.

Readings and resources:

Westerdahl, Christer (1992) - "The Maritime Cultural Landscape", *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 21.1, pp.5-14. https://www.academia.edu/1461748/The_maritime_cultural_landscape

Council of Europe Landscape Convention website

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/home>

Reimann, L.; Vafeidis, A.T. ; Brown, S. *et al.* (2018) – "Mediterranean UNESCO World Heritage at risk from coastal flooding and erosion due to sea-level rise", *Nature Communications* 9, 4161.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-06645-9>



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