

## REPORT

### International conference *Underwater Cultural Heritage in Europe today* International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar Zadar, Croatia, 25<sup>th</sup>– 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018

The International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar (the UNESCO category 2 centre) in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture organized an international conference under the name *Underwater Cultural Heritage in Europe Today* from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

The Conference was co-funded by the Central European Initiative (CEI), the UNESCO's Venice Office, the European Commission Representation in Croatia and the Europe Direct Zadar Information Center (EDIC Zadar).

Having in mind the importance of this Conference and aiming at the promotion of the widest possible ratification and implementation of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, the Director-General of UNESCO Ms Audrey Azoulay, granted her patronage to the manifestation. The International Conference was also a part of the official programme of the Republic of Croatia's chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Celebrating the European Year of Cultural Heritage the aim of the Conference was to identify key current issues and challenges and to explore how these issues could be addressed and encourage people to explore Europe's rich and diverse underwater cultural heritage.

The Conference was thus especially organized to foster dialogue, exchange experiences and ideas and to provide opportunities for cooperation. It was arranged in the cooperative spirit of the UNESCO 2001 Convention, which is deeply embedded in the statutes of the ICUA Zadar.

The Expert Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 gathered the archaeologists, representatives of the specialized European institutions dealing with the preservation of underwater cultural heritage and served as a platform to exchange and present new achievements in the protection and preservation of underwater cultural heritage.

In addition to archaeologists, representatives of the archaeological museums and other Croatian institutions that regularly conduct underwater research, the Conference was attended by students from the Department of Archeology at the University of Zadar and former ICUA's courses participants from the region.

The participants and the audience were presented for the first time the documentary film about the exploration and protection of the underwater cultural heritage of the Adriatic Sea prepared by the ICUA Zadar.

On the second day on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 the International Meeting was dedicated to the implementation of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. The representatives of the ministries of culture presented the legal framework for the protection of underwater cultural heritage in their countries and issues of heritage and site protection (pillage, traffic, industrial work).

A number of action points were agreed upon like reinforcing international, regional, trans-border, and bilateral activities among countries in the region, developing institutional and professional capacities, especially in cooperation with relevant regional UNESCO Centres, by supporting joint trainings, networking of experts, study visits and other cross-border capacity-building activities and improving legal, institutional and administrative frameworks, especially through the sharing of knowledge, experience and good practices developed at national level.

List of websites:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/venice/about-this-office/single-view/news/underwater-cultural-heritage-in-europe-today/>

<https://en.unesco.org/events/underwater-cultural-heritage-europe-today>

[https://ec.europa.eu/croatia/events/international\\_conference\\_underwater\\_cultural\\_heritage\\_in\\_europe\\_today\\_hr](https://ec.europa.eu/croatia/events/international_conference_underwater_cultural_heritage_in_europe_today_hr)

<http://www.eu.godina.kulturne-bastine.min-kulture.hr/events/28?t=1&page=1>

[https://europa.eu/cultural-heritage/international-conference-underwater-cultural-heritage-europe-today\\_en](https://europa.eu/cultural-heritage/international-conference-underwater-cultural-heritage-europe-today_en)

[https://www.min-kulture.hr/userdocsimages/Bastina/MCPA%20Zd\\_%20%20FINALNI%20program%20konferencije%2022%2010%2018.pdf](https://www.min-kulture.hr/userdocsimages/Bastina/MCPA%20Zd_%20%20FINALNI%20program%20konferencije%2022%2010%2018.pdf)

<https://www.unworldoceansday.org/index.php/event/international-conference-underwater-cultural-heritage-europe-today-zadar-croatia-25-26-0>

<http://edic-zadar.com/edic-zadar-sudjeluje-o-organizaciji-medunarodne-konferencija-o-podvodnoj-kulturnoj-bastini-koja-pocinje-25-listopada/>

<https://www.zadar.travel/en/what-s-on/conferences-and-meetings/13-03-2018/underwater-cultural-heritage-in-europe-today-st-nicholas-church-october-25-26#.W9WVaU2ovIU>

<http://www.europski-fondovi.eu/vijesti/me-unarodna-konferencija-o-podvodnoj-kulturnoj-bastini>

## Press:

<https://www.zadarskilist.hr/clanci/25102018/u-zadru-strucnjaci-u-podvodnoj-arheologiji-iz-cije-e-europe>

<https://www.glasistre.hr/kultura/podvodna-kulturna-bastina-u-europi-danas-o-istarskim-antickim-brodovima-i-brodolomima-572844>

<https://www.menu.hr/turizam/medunarodna-konferencija-o-podvodnoj-kulturnoj-bastini-pocinje-25-listopada/>

<https://zadarski.slobodnadalmacija.hr/djirada/clanak/id/571290/meunarodna-konferencija-podvodna-kulturna-bastina-u-europi-danas-odrzat-ce-se-u-zadru>

<https://ezadar.rtl.hr/kultura/3276505/u-zadru-se-odrzava-trodnevna-medjunarodna-konferencija-podvodna-kulturna-bastina-u-europi-danas/>

<https://www.restaurant-hotel.com.hr/1958?cctest&>

## Translation:

Two days international conference on underwater cultural heritage

In Zadar gathered the experts in the field of underwater archaeology from all over Europe

*“Our intentions were to invite the experts from different European countries to make differences and share different insights about the state and ways of protecting underwater cultural heritage through discussions and presentations”,* said the Director of the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar Mr. Luka Bekić.

Experts in the field of underwater archeology from all over the Europe gathered in Zadar for two days to discuss about the current state of underwater cultural heritage in Europe.

This morning at the church of St. Nicholas in Zadar, the International Conference which is under the auspices of the UNESCO Director-General Ms. Audrey Azoulay was opened organized by joint collaboration of the International Centre for Underwater Archeology in Zadar and the Ministry of Culture. It is also a part of the official programme of the Republic of Croatia's chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The participants were welcomed by the Director of the ICUA Zadar Mr. Luka Bekić and the Deputy Head of the Department for Archeology at the University of Zadar Mr. Dario Vujević. Mr. Bekić expressed his satisfaction with the great response of archaeologists from all over Europe, pointing out that this is also an appreciation of the Centre's work.

*“Our intentions were to invite experts from different European countries to show differences and share different insights about the state and ways of protecting underwater cultural heritage through discussions and presenations. I hope you will enjoy in the City of Zadar, share ideas and have a fruitful discussions of how the future of underwater archeology will look like in Europe”,* said Mr. Bekić.

On behalf of the Head of Department for Archaeology at the University of Zadar Mr. Ante Uglešić, Mr. Vukojević expressed his good wishes and success to the Conference.

The Conference will continue tomorrow at the Rector's Palace.



## Announcement:

The International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture organizes an international conference "Underwater Cultural Heritage in Europe Today" from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The International Conference is under the auspices of the UNESCO Director-General Ms. Audrey Azoulay. It is also a part of the official programme of the Republic of Croatia's chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The European Union proclaimed the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage and this Conference will mark this important European event.

Celebrating the European Year of Cultural Heritage the aim of the international conference is to identify key current issues and challenges and to explore how these issues could be addressed and encourage people to explore Europe's rich and diverse underwater cultural heritage.

The Expert Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 will serve as a platform to exchange experiences and ideas and to present new achievements in the protection and preservation of underwater cultural heritage. We encourage participants to describe from their own experience and expertise examples of good and bad practices in the protection of the submerged heritage.

On the first day of the manifestation on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> of October at the former St. Nicholas church the international experts (Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Germany, Bulgaria, UK, France, Italy, Hungary, Greece, Slovenia) will exchange experiences and present achievements in the protection and preservation of underwater cultural heritage.

On the second day of the manifestation on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> of October on behalf of the Minister of Culture Ms. Nina Obuljen Koržinek, the Assistant Minister Mr. Hrvoje Manenica will open the International Meeting at the Rector Palace. Participants will also be addressed by the Head of the European Commission Representation in Croatia Mr. Branko Baričević and the Mayor of the City of Zadar Mr. Branko Dukić.

The meeting will be dedicated to the implementation of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. The Republic of Croatia has ratified the Convention as the third country in the world, thus confirming the importance attached to the protection of underwater cultural heritage. The Croatian coast is abundant with important archaeological sites from different epochs of history and underwater archaeology is well developed which was recognized by the UNESCO. As a first of its kind the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Zadar was granted the auspices of UNESCO based on a bilateral agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the UNESCO in 2007.

The International Conference will be co-funded by the Central European Initiative (CEI), the cultural and scientific international organization that Croatia chairs since January this year, with financial resources provided by the UNESCO's Venice Office, the European Commission Representation in Croatia and the Europe Direct Zadar Information Center (EDIC Zadar).

