

# ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO - 2017

\* Obligatory

## 1. IDENTIFICATION

- Slovak Commission for UNESCO
- Miroslav Lajčák - Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
- Secretary General - Ambassador Mária Krasnohorská
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## 2. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF YOUR NATIONAL COMMISSION IMPLEMENTED IN 2017 \*

Before the end of 2016, the **new Statute of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO** was approved. The Commission is an advisory body of experts of the Government of Slovakia in the field of UNESCO. The Slovak Commission for UNESCO has a maximum of 21 members and is funded from the state budget through the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

In 2017, the Slovak Commission for UNESCO organized various conferences, competitions, congresses. It worked in organizing high-level visits within Slovakia, took the initiative of multiple publications and studies. Among others:

- **The International Open Geological Congress of the Slovak and Czech Geological Societies** in the High Tatras in 2017;
- **The international conference “Benefits Beyond Inscription: Leveraging the UNESCO Brand for Sustainable Tourism Development in Central European Regions”** in Bardejov;
- The 3-day workshop **in the framework of implementation of UNESCO's "World heritage and sustainable tourism" program in Slovakia** in Stakčín and surrounding sites of the National Park of Poloniny;
- **V4 Heritage Academy** – the summer school dedicated to young professionals from the V4 region, focused to the improvement of their skills in the World Cultural Heritage sites' management;
- The Annual meeting of the **Associated Schools in Slovakia** in Bratislava;
- **The Human Rights Olympics** - the national competition of secondary school students in the Slovak Republic in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights;
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the **UNESCO Philosophy Day/Night in Slovakia** in 2017;
- The national conference **“Ethic problems in the science and technologies”** took place in Bratislava;
- The 16th international art contest for the creation of a book plate for children aged from 6 to 15 years - **Biennial EX LIBRIS HLOHOVEC** took place in 2017. The jury awarded 61 out of 1 292 children.

### 3. ONE SUCCESS STORY \*

In 2017, the Slovak committee for MAB launched the process of development its communication strategy. Local product branding has been implemented in the Poľana Biosphere Reserve, while other biosphere reserves have been exploring possibilities for BR specific local brand. The management of BR Poľana has begun the process of institutionalization with stakeholders' engagement.

Director of the Poľana BR, Ms. Vladimira Fabriciusova was given a **Michel Batisse Award for the Biosphere Reserve Management** at the ceremonial event in the course of the ICC MAB.

In 2017, Slovakia completed a long-term effort to nominate its sites belonging to the historic frontiers of the Roman Empire for inscription on the World Heritage List. In close cooperation with experts from the four countries, a thematic study and a nomination strategy were presented to the World Heritage Committee. Joint Austrian-German-Hungarian-Slovak nomination, entitled "Frontiers of the Roman Empire – the Danube Limes", was successfully finalised in December 2017.

Last year, UNESCO inscribed the Slovak's item "**Multipart Singing of Horehronie**" on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Multipart Singing of Horehronie is characterized by a variable solo melody of pre-singing and more static choir answers, either by men or women.

### 4. FUTURE PRIORITIES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT WORK \*

The Geoparks Net of Slovakia associates geoparks that are located on the territory of the Slovak Republic, and were awarded a degree of the Geopark of the Slovak Republic.

The Slovak Commission for UNESCO will provide the assistance for establishing cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports and UNESCO. The final document covering this cooperation should be a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and UNESCO Education Sector.

Slovakia, as the Vice-president of Territorial group II, suggested co-organizing a conference on **Social Transformation experiences of Post-Socialist countries of Eastern Europe**. The organization of this conference was incorporated in the MOST action plan for 2016 – 2021, approved at the 13th IGC UNESCO MOST session in Kuala Lumpur. In 2017, a first coordination meeting of the conference organization committee was held in Bratislava with representatives from Poland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic.

Slovak MAB Committee made a detailed analysis of the **Lima Action Plan** and started the preparation of the national implementation plan. The Slovak MAB Committee's

future priorities are: developing capacities for implementation of the Lima Action Plan; strengthening support for MAB Program and biosphere reserves from all levels of administration and different stakeholders; introducing innovative income generation possibilities for biosphere reserves; employment of innovative communication tools and measures in promotion of biosphere reserves.

The 3rd year of the **UNESCO Philosophy Day/Night in Slovakia** will be organized in 2018.