SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN IN WORLD HERITAGE SITES

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W6

Design for the creation of connections and opportunities of intercultural dialogue through heritage in World Heritage Sites. Presentation of a selection of case studies.

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W6.1

Intercultural dialogue and its relevance in the urban issue.

It is more and more recognized the vital importance of intercultural dialogue for the development and for security concerns. This is to address the root causes of conflicts and sustaining peaceful societies.

Further international recognitions:
UNESCO's International Decade for the Rapprochement of cultures (2013-2022)
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (adopted in 2015)
relevant UN General Assembly resolutions
UN Secretary General's reform of the peace agenda in 2016

Source: UNESCO survey on intercultural dialogue 2017, analysis of findings, Paris, 2018

The world is more and more interconnected but it does not mean that individuals and societies really live together – as reveal the exclusions suffered by millions of poor, women, youth, migrants and disenfranchised minorities. Today there is more information, technology and knowledge available than ever before, but adequate wisdom is still needed to prevent conflicts, to eradicate poverty or to make it possible for all to learn in order to live in harmony in a safe world.

In this new, turbulent international globalised landscape, a central message must be heralded: peace is more than the absence of war, it is living together with our differences – of sex, race, language, religion or culture – while furthering universal respect for justice and human rights on which such coexistence depends. Therefore, peace should never be taken for granted. It is an on-going process, a long-term goal which requires constant engineering, vigilance and active participation by all individuals. It is a choice to be made on each situation, an everyday life decision to engage in sincere dialogue with other individual and communities, whether they live a block or a click away.

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It has become more crucial than ever to promote and disseminate values, attitudes and behaviours conducive to dialogue, non-violence and the rapprochement of cultures in line with the principles of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which states that:

"In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace. Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of cultural diversity. Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that sustain public life" (Article 2, "From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism").

Source: UNESCO https://en.unesco.org/themes/intercultural-dialogue

Today, peace requires ever more active investments, enlightened leadership, power-ful educational values, extensive research in social innovation and a progressive media world. Every one and each of these constitutes a requirement relevant to the mission of UNESCO. The Organization's longstanding commitments to the development of edu-cation and sciences, the enrichment of cultural creativity, heritage and cultural futures, including a vibrant and peace-oriented global media structure, can in fact be seen as UNESCO's contribution to world peace as active, flourishing and sustainable.

UNESCO
survey
on intercultural
dialogue
2017

Analysis of findings

UNESCO conducted a survey with deadline Spring 2017 among its member states to assess the main issues, current policies and legislation and stakeholders in this field. The questionnaire was distributed to 199 National Commissions in 6 languages. The respondents (21,622%) represent all geographic regions, including countries with large, middle and small populations, and over half from developing economies.

The survey consisted in 17 quantitative and qualitative questions and was structured in:
1. Definition
2. Policy framework
3. Challenges
4. Enabling factors

Definition

- Context is crucial to defining and applying intercultural dialogue.

- Intercultural dialogue is a necessary environment for social cohesion and peace, and is instrumental in achieving related goals.

- Intercultural dialogue is increasingly recognized for its contribution to maintaining peaceful societies and preventing conflict.

- Intercultural dialogue is a wide-ranging concept and multi-stakeholder engagement is key to ensuring its implementation.

- Economic development is regarded as the least pertinent factor contributing to and resulting from intercultural dialogue.

Source: UNESCO survey on intercultural dialogue 2017, analysis of findings, Paris, 2018

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Policy framework

- The majority of respondents (71%) state that an intercultural dialogue policy is in place in their country, while only 38% of respondents confirmed the existence of a definition of intercultural dialogue at national level.

- Religious communities and faith-based organizations can provide an entry point for intercultural dialogue and support the implementation of policies and activities.

- Cultural ministries, agencies, centres and foundations are frequently charged with the promotion of intercultural dialogue.

Source: UNESCO survey on intercultural dialogue 2017, analysis of findings, Paris, 2018

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Policy framework

• 33% of respondents report that local or municipal administrations are responsible for the administration of intercultural dialogue.

• The media and educational programmes in schools and universities function as particularly effective mechanisms for supporting intercultural dialogue.

• 57% of respondents confirm the existence of a special financial provision for intercultural dialogue in their country.

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Challenges

• Past and present conflicts and violence represent significant and complex challenges to bringing different people together in dialogue.

Source: UNESCO survey on intercultural dialogue 2017, analysis of findings, Paris, 2018

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• Past and present conflicts and violence represent significant and complex challenges to bringing different people together in dialogue.

• The absence of a national policy and a well- articulated definition of intercultural dialogue can weaken governance and implementation, which is compounded by limited political will and funding.

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• The absence of a national policy and a well- articulated definition of intercultural dialogue can weaken governance and implementation, which is compounded by limited political will and funding.

• Increased migration has placed particular pressure on education systems that struggle to integrate migrants of different cultural and religious backgrounds.

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• Deep-rooted prejudices and rigid social norms may prevent societies from being open to other cultures.

Source: UNESCO survey on intercultural dialogue 2017, analysis of findings, Paris, 2018

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Enabling factors

• An environment based on respect, tolerance and acceptance is essential to enable intercultural dialogue to thrive.

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• An environment based on respect, tolerance and acceptance is essential to enable intercultural dialogue to thrive.

• A comprehensive understanding of cultural diversity among all citizens should be supported by quality education, a strong media sector and adequate knowledge dissemination.

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• A comprehensive understanding of cultural diversity among all citizens should be supported by quality education, a strong media sector and adequate knowledge dissemination.

• A favourable policy framework with clear and specific priorities is necessary to guide intercultural dialogue, and should be supported by mechanisms with defined competencies.

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• An inclusive approach to participation in intercultural dialogue processes and policy- making enables greater engagement and ownership.

Source: UNESCO survey on intercultural dialogue 2017, analysis of findings, Paris, 2018

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