

Multimedia Exhibition
THE HERITAGE OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE



REGIONAL FORUM
CULTURAL CORRIDORS OF SOUTH-EAST EUROPE
COMMON PAST AND SHARED HERITAGE – A KEY TO FUTURE PARTNERSHIP

Presentation by Prof. Todor Kretev

Your Excellencies,
Mr. Director General of UNESCO,
Mr. Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

What you see up front is a multimedia image of the heritage of our region as part of the world cultural treasury. Vast quantity of information is collected in this small hall using modern information technologies. We may have access, via Internet, to valuables from all over the world.

On the map of the world, we see the World heritage sites and the intangible heritage masterpieces identified with the contribution of UNESCO. Monitors can provide us with information on the Silk Roads, the Incas Route, the Slavery Route, etc.

The map of Europe shows the major European values and cultural routes identified under the Council of Europe Programme supported by the European Institute of Cultural Routes and the Government of Luxembourg. From the monitors, we may follow the Pilgrim's Route to Santiago de Compostela, the Routes of Andalucia, the Vikings Routes, the Olive Tree Route, etc.

Both the map of South East Europe and the computer presentation present the age-old cultural routes and the contributions of states and international organisations such as UNESCO with regard to the 55 World heritage sites (please, look how we can have an access to a huge database containing information on them), the Council of Europe and the European Union with regard to the 160 sites covered by the Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe (these are the fiches for each of them), and ICOMOS in regard with the identification of sites at risk under the Heritage at Risk Programme.

Using the monitors, we may also have an access to pilot projects under the Phare Programme in Bulgaria in order to reach thousands of sites: monasteries, churches, landscapes, archaeological sites, etc. All this demonstrates the possibilities of future a Virtual Cultural Corridors in South East Europe web page.

We have the opportunity to see also films about the authentic folklore of countries of the region, as well as to visit the Live Human Treasuries web site and to learn about the folklore tradition, for example of Varna region, today, the 21st of May, which is the St. Konstantin and Helena day, while 600 images of tangible and intangible values of the region are changing in front of the audience in this hall.

This exhibition would not be possible without the financial support of UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as without the generous information backup of UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the European Institute of Cultural Routes and ICOMOS, and without the assistance of the British Council in Bulgaria and the British Union Fund for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe, the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy and the Archaeology Museum in Varna.

Let me add that the materials have been developed in the Multimedia Laboratory of the Department of Architecture at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia with the contribution of these young people – architects and students in architecture. Thank you!