

“From UNESCO to MaB stories: a virtuous synthesis between man and environment”

Italian Federation of Clubs and Centres for UNESCO (FICLU)

Maria Sole Marchegiani

Introduction



The Italian Federation of Clubs and Centres for UNESCO (FICLU)

Federazione Italiana delle Associazioni e Club per l'UNESCO
Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite per l'Educazione, la Scienza e la Cultura

FICLU is the Italian Federation of Associations, Clubs and Centres for UNESCO, which counts 105 Clubs and Centres diffused all over Italy.
<http://ficlu.org/>

IV ASIA-EUROPE FORUM ON EDUCATION

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Who are we

Chiara Cerioni

Mariasole Marchegiani

We are two students in cultural heritage. Since June 2021 we are members of the Club for UNESCO in Tolentino.

We both work in the Abbey of Sant' Urbano to the project called "Valle di San Clemente" whose aim is to support and promote the territory.

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We are Chiara and Mariasole and we come from an east-central region in Italy called “Le Marche”. We met at University where we studied Cultural Heritage and now we are working together in a territorial project called *Valle di San Clemente*. From this year we are also members of the Club for UNESCO in Tolentino.

Main Body



FICLU's action plan 2019-2022

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Identity and Heritage Community
- Quality Education
- Sustainable Development and Innovation
- International and National Competitions

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TOPIC OF THE FICLU’s action plan for these years is centered on four themes, the ones you can read on this slide.

UNESCO MAB programme

UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme is an intergovernmental scientific programme launched by UNESCO in 1971 to promote a balanced relationship between **man and the environment** through the protection of biodiversity and good practices of **Sustainable Development**.

In Italy there are **20 UNESCO Biosphere Reserves**.




Today when we talk about sustainability, we talk about the MaB programme, the oldest UNESCO Programme, born in 1971, that promotes a balanced relationship between man and the environment.

An example of good practice by the Italian Federation (FICLU) about SD and UNESCO MAB Programme

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 Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite per l'Educazione, la Scienza e la Cultura

Membro delle Associazioni e Club per l'UNESCO
 Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite per l'Educazione, la Scienza e la Cultura

On the occasion of the nomination of Biosphere Reserves in central Italy, promoted by the **Club for UNESCO in Tolentino**, a **network of activities** has been set up to promote UNESCO MAB programme.

For these activities a **very active network** has been created with Clubs and Centres from North, Centre and South of Italy: Clubs for UNESCO in **Carpinetti, Cuneo, Foligno, Molfetta, Terre del Boca, Tolentino and Terre Maceratesi ODV, Vulture and Centre for UNESCO in Torino**.





Located in the MaB area, the Club for UNESCO in Tolentino decided to promote the nomination of Biosphere Reserves in central Italy.

Italian Federation's activity for the promotion of Sustainable Development through MAB programme

The promotion of the UNESCO MAB area has developed through cooperative learning and research/action :

- *Training Course for all Clubs and Centres with experts from UNESCO Chairs and UNESCO officials.*
- *Collection of testimonies about the activities of Clubs and Centres on SD.*
- *Collective writing of an Ebook with images and descriptions.*

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

Share Ideas Collaboration

Interaction Discussion



Let's have a look at this example of good practice and participation.

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In the case of the driving project of sustainability, a very active network of Clubs and Centres from North, Centre and South of Italy was created: Clubs for UNESCO in Carpinetti, Cuneo, Foligno, Molfetta, Terre del Boca, Tolentino and Terre Maceratesi ODV, Vulture and Centre for UNESCO in Torino.

The UNESCO Club of Tolentino and Terre Maceratesi in order to increase the involvement of the stakeholders that, in various ways, will contribute to the definition of the vision and to the identification of the various steps for its implementation (from vision to action) has conducted an Action Plan for Territorial Promotion.

The Action Plan is composed of 4 vectors:

INFORMATION activities - among local actors (Schools, Associations, Enterprises, Citizens);

TRAINING activities - on the MaB programme and on participatory planning strategies with the involvement of other MaB Reserves and the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Development and Territory Management, established in 2010 at the University of Turin;

DIVULGATION activities – at regional and national level, considering the supraregional level a strong point for supporting this nomination;

CONTENTS PRODUCTION activities – useful tools for training and dissemination.

Italian Federation's activity for the promotion of Sustainable Development through MAB programme

• The promotional activity of UNESCO MAB area developed through the following steps:

- STEP 1-**
 - Training about UNESCO MAB Programme for all Italian Clubs
 - Training about UNESCO MAB Programme for local players
 - Training on SD for young people
- STEP 2-**
 - Spreading and dissemination of UNESCO MAB Programme

These are the steps that have been developed over time: we can see in evidence both training programmes and results sharing.

STEP 1- Training on SD through MAB programme

- MAB Training Course: Corso di formazione FICM modulare online sul programma Man and Biosphere (MaB) UNESCO 50 ANNI E NON SENTIRLI
- Glat's Training Course: Animazione territoriale per il Man and Biosphere UNESCO Breve corso online
- Training Course for young people: Fare trasformazione. L'economia sociale e solidale

Online modular training course on the UNESCO MaB programme "50 anni e non sentirli"

- Territorial animation for the UNESCO MaB Programme - brief training course
- Making transformation. Social and solidarity economy - training course for young people

90/100 participants from all Italy in each meeting

Italian UNESCO Clubs participate in training on the MaB program



The Ebook “*From UNESCO to MaB stories: a virtuous synthesis between man and environment*” in which you can find all the information about the programme and in which the results of this virtuous collaboration are summarized.

An Ebook for Sustainable Development

From UNESCO to MaB stories: A virtuous synthesis between man and the environment.

In the 50th anniversary of the MaB programme, the issues related to the candidature of a territory as a UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE are once again highly topical, and new horizons are opening up for the governance of the existing Reserves.

In this context, the activity of a segment of the FICLU IN ACTION PROGRAMME was developed. This is a programme through which the Italian Federation intended to mobilise Clubs to become a proactive part in the promotion of UNESCO programmes.

Specifically, the project develops the contents related to the Sustainable Development declined in the themes of circular economy, ethical finance and social balance.

The MaB programme has taken the 2030 Agenda as a paradigm for defining the Sustainable Development, which finds a precise action protocol in the interdependence of the 17 objectives.

The e-book is therefore the product of a collaborative effort between the FICLU, The UNESCO Club "Tolentino e Terre Maceratesi", the UNESCO Center of Turin and the other following Clubs: Carpineti, Cuneo, Foligno, Molfetta, Terre del Boca, Vulture.

The content is based on the training course organised by FICLU to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the MaB programme, during which the opportunities and the threats to the effective implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals were highlighted.

The book is divided into a technical section, in which the specific aspects of the MaB programme are described, followed by a second part that brings together the contributions of the Clubs on the various aspects of interaction with the territories, whether already recognised as a Biosphere Reserve or in candidature.

The INTRODUCTION describes FICLU's commitment to building a sustainable future and highlights the upgrade of UNESCO's MaB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Established as a scientific programme, the MAB is a core programme for UNESCO Chairs in the Sustainable Development "network".

Climate, social and environmental emergencies call for the UNESCO MAB perspective to be chosen without further delay as a systemic solution for Sustainable Development.

Among UNESCO programmes, Biosphere Reserve status is one of the most complex to obtain because it is a multilateral, inter-institutional and supra-municipal programme that must provide territories with unifying governance. This complexity makes it little known in its authentic form.

For this reason, SECTION I of the ebook contains: History of the MaB, structure and functions of a biosphere reserve, designation process, periodic review and withdrawing recognition of reserves, International and national reference documents, Pre- and post-recognition governance. A chapter is dedicated to Biosphere Reserves in Italy.

In SECTION II, each club described its relationship with the relevant biosphere reserve, selecting themes related to the Sustainable Development.

In "Getting better in a Biosphere Reserve" ("Crescere in una Riserva di Biosfera"), the Carpineti UNESCO CLUB points out that the social sciences must find an increasingly meaningful place and consideration in what is defined as "territorial animation", the beating heart of a Biosphere Reserve.

The Cuneo UNESCO CLUB in "Teaching MaB, sustainable development education projects for schools" ("Educare MaB, progetti di educazione allo sviluppo sostenibile per le scuole") proposes a didactic project capable of activating and consolidating in the younger generations stable attitudes towards the conservation and protection of the environment, an integral part of a conscious education for Sustainable Development.

In the article "The Monviso transboundary biosphere reserve" ("La riserva della biosfera transfrontaliera del Monviso") the theme is that of the complexity of the involvement of local stakeholders and governance, which increases as the physical and geopolitical geographies involved increase. The recomposition of these entities in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve makes it possible to find a unity of purpose for the total benefit of biodiversity conservation and resident communities.

The Foligno and Valle del Clitunno UNESCO CLUB in "The Monte Peglia World Biosphere Reserve" ("La Riserva mondiale della Biosfera del Monte Peglia") shows how generative and aggregative the Unesco ideals are when local stakeholders join forces to establish an alliance with the environment for Sustainable Development.

The Molfetta UNESCO CLUB in its two articles "The Apulian sea, protection and enhancement initiatives for a MaB UNESCO horizon of protected areas" ("Il mare di Puglia, iniziative di tutela e valorizzazione per un orizzonte MaB UNESCO delle aree protette") and "Biosphere Reserves in marine areas, scientific and management issues" ("Riserve della Biosfera in aree marine, questioni scientifiche e gestionali") enters the debate on Marine MaB Reserves on their candidacy and biodynamic configuration. This is an emerging issue at different institutional levels, both for its regulatory complexity and for the composite articulation of management.

The Terre Del Boca UNESCO CLUB in "The heritage community in a MaB Reserve" ("La comunità patrimoniale in una Riserva MaB") addresses the issue of "heritage communities" whose historical, artistic, tangible and intangible cultural assets represent the identity and tradition of a territory. Preserving and enhancing these assets in a MaB Reserve means identifying the connective tissue of an area that chooses to be united in its vocation for Sustainable Development.

The Vulture UNESCO CLUB in "Candidacy for the MaB Programme of the SAC "Monte Vulture" in the Vulture Regional Natural Park" ("Candidatura al Programma MaB della ZSC "Monte Vulture" nel Parco Regionale Naturale del Vulture") shows how a Club can be the driving force with the institutional entities for the activation of the MAB Reserve candidacy process.

The UNESCO Center of Turin in "re-knew the UNESCO in Piedmont. UNESCO Clubs and Centres in a network to publicise and enhance the UNESCO treasures of the Piedmontese territory" ("Ri-conosci l'UNESCO in Piemonte. Club e Centri UNESCO in rete per far conoscere e valorizzare le ricchezze UNESCO del territorio piemontese) highlights the role of collector that a UNESCO association can play in inter-institutional "working tables" that are appropriately activated between different Biosphere Reserves.

The book has an Appendix describing the various UNESCO programmes together with a detailed bibliography.



The participation in the World Tourism Event in Padua, in September 2021, was also very important to present the results of our activity, with the presence of the Clubs and Centres of the network.

The experience we have proposed is not the only one in Italy, sustainable development is only one of the programmes that the Italian Federation carries out both on the territories and in schools, involving adults and students from all over Italy.

Conclusion

It's not easy for me to describe what it meant to be a part of such a big event. The chance that Unesco gave me is something I will always be grateful about.

The reasons for my gratitude come down to three themes: **meeting, sharing and overcoming**. And I explain what I mean:

When I was first invited to this event I was a bit nervous. Mainly because I'm not always confident with the fluency of my English in public, but also because I was a bit afraid of meeting so many prepared people.

I had a big mission on my shoulders, because it was about my land, my place, the treasures of the earth that birthed me. This is an area that it's not always under the spotlight and I was afraid I could blow away this opportunity.

But then I meet all this wonderful people that talked about their projects, their countries, a lot of places I can't wait to visit, a lot of inspirations for my job in the Valle di San Clemente, in Italy.

And that was sharing. Sharing is surviving, always, especially in our jobs.

The dialogue and exchange that take place in an international context allow us to have a multiple interpretation of a concept so complicated that is sustainability.

I was particularly struck by the way in which the education you want to promote is so connected to the country you represent and that the programming methods we have so many facets.

The role that UNESCO centres and associations play in education for sustainability and social development is fundamental and makes visible the importance of international cooperation and solidarity.

The value of cooperation and union for a common mission is transmitted by these incredible people.

They put so much passion in the commitment to better communicate the goal that makes alive the vision they have of a future society.

And what about overcoming?

Well, this experience really gave me a new vision about the possibilities of my land and also about my personal resources.