

LE PROGRAMME MÉDITERRANÉE DE L'UNESCO

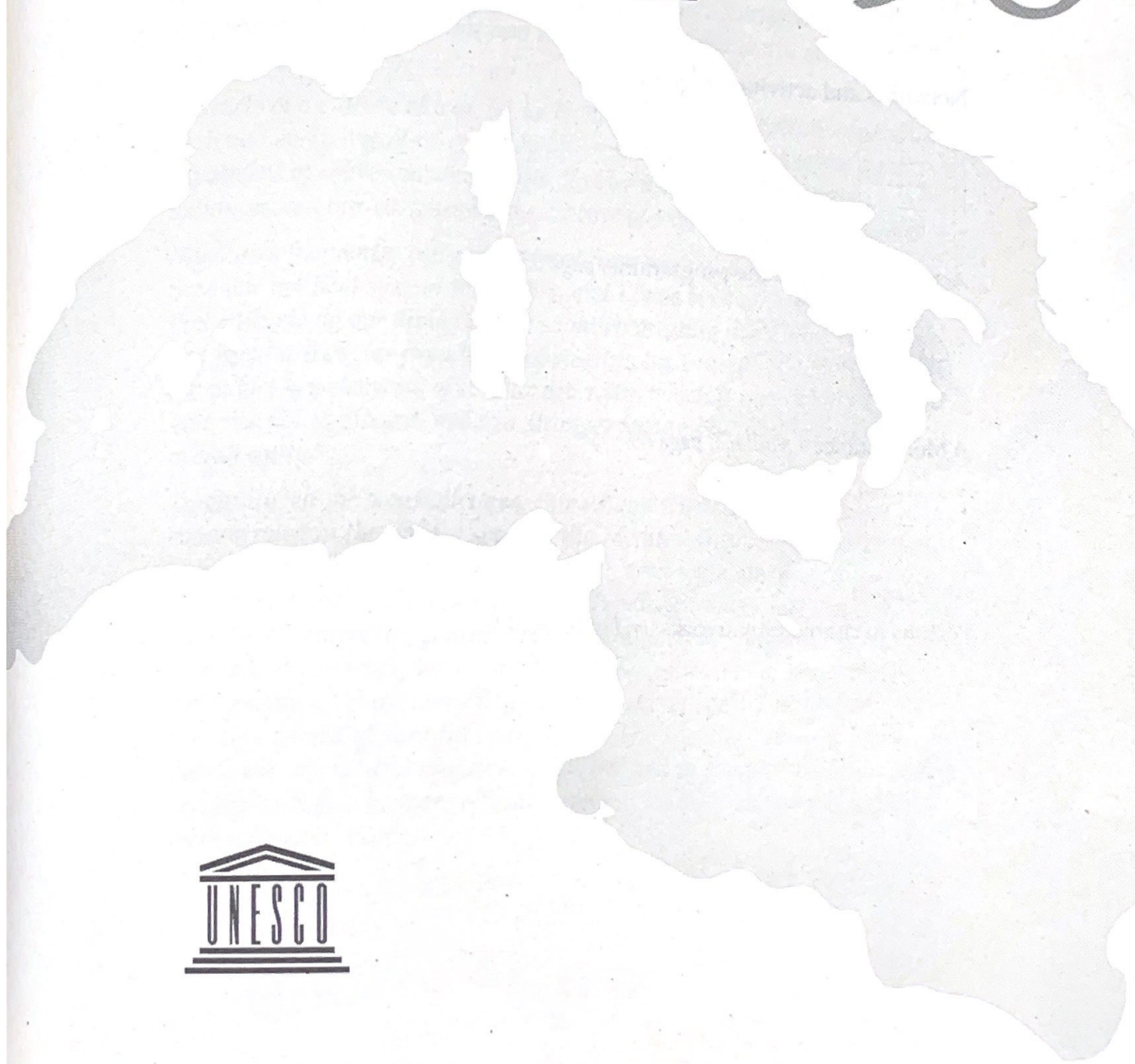
البرنامج المتوسطي لمنظمة اليونسكو

THE UNESCO MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME



1998

THE UNESCO  
MEDITERRANEAN  
PROGRAMME '98



*As the 21<sup>st</sup> century approaches, we are turning a new page in the history of humanity. The year 2000 will not mark the end of history but, if we have sufficient will, it could mark the end of the history of war.*

*We now know that war offers no solutions to the problems it is supposed to address. It is our task to prove wrong all the prophets of doom who announce the clash of civilizations as an inevitable consequence of the disappearance of power blocs and the end of the split world of the Cold War.*

*Products of a culture of war, let us be the builders of a culture of peace. Each and every one of us can play his or her part. Let us become aware of patterns of behaviour and points of view which have been fixed within us and our societies by the culture of war, even in time of peace.*

*My duties frequently call me to travel from one culture to another and from one political system to another, and I have been struck by the fact that cultures do not divide people so much as unite them. Our identities and peculiarities, far from being opposed to the concept of a global village, are in fact key elements of it. Our diversity, which is our richness, should give rise not to discord, but to a stronger feeling that in diversity is an overall unity.*

*Tragically, all the contradictions, threats and tensions of our age are concentrated in the limited space of the Mediterranean – with large-scale pollution and erosion of the environment, civil wars and armed conflicts, extreme nationalism, racism, religious fundamentalism, the denial of identity, ethnocentricity, arms dealing and nuclear proliferation, exclusion, economic dependence, the poverty trap, the destitution of street children, demography and migratory flows that are out of control, drugs and the alarming spread of harmful viruses, etc.. The Mediterranean is also a distillation of cultural nostalgia, marginalized in comparison with the large regional groups which are officially recognized by States and Intergovernmental Organizations.*

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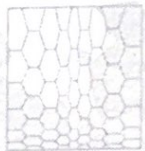
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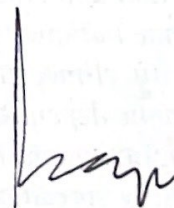
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*UNESCO is fully committed to the struggle against the scourges which ravage or threaten the Mediterranean, and refuses to see the region as a divided area condemned to violence, inescapable confrontations and decline. UNESCO intends to respond to these threats by bringing about the necessary conditions for the Mediterranean to emerge as an area which accepts and recognizes its creative diversities, a Mediterranean aware of forming a community founded upon shared values, and demanding that its peoples with their many and varied identities should share a common destiny. For the Mediterranean is also a region of hopes, potential and possibilities, where there are so many fabrics to be woven and so many bridges to be built!*


*This is the reason why I have decided to bring together the activities currently under way within UNESCO, to encourage new activities from outside, and to launch without delay at UNESCO the Mediterranean Programme.*

*I call upon all parliaments and communities who are committed to the defence of peace and the struggle against exclusion, and upon all those – women, young people, teachers, artists, intellectuals, scientists – who refuse to submit blindly to the vicissitudes of fate, to make known and support our action through their representatives, associations and networks.*

*UNESCO has a stake in the Mediterranean because peace is its mission and the future its supreme challenge.*



Federico Mayor  
Director-General of UNESCO



Ever since the World Conference on Cultural Policies in Mexico City (16 July – 6 August 1982), UNESCO has maintained a constant interest in Mediterranean affairs. 'Considering that the Mediterranean has (...) constituted a link between peoples and cultures, as a sea which is a source of creativity and of fruitful exchanges spanning millennia, and a means of communication between European and Islamic cultures', the Mexico City Conference recommended that Member States:

- a) proclaim the Mediterranean 'The Sea of human civilization';
- b) use the resources of culture and communication to intensify their activity on behalf of peace and international understanding around the Mediterranean.

It also expressed the hope that the Mediterranean would be placed on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

Numerous studies and programmes relating to the Mediterranean area have since been planned and carried out in different sectors of the Organization. External projects have been submitted to it for support and sponsorship.

The wide-ranging Mediterranean network project (RUNESMED) was approved by the General Conference at its twenty-seventh session, assigning a co-ordinating role to UNESCO in respect of the various initiatives that relate to its fields of competence and concern the Mediterranean.

Because of the extraordinary development of these initiatives, the importance attached to them by those actively involved and participating in them and the significance of what they have achieved in recent years, the Director-General has decided to group together under the name 'Mediterranean Programme', networks and activities specific to this region.

The aims of the Programme are three in number:

1. to contribute to the advancement of the countries and peoples of the Mediterranean in the sectors corresponding to UNESCO's mandate;
2. to develop intra-Mediterranean co-operation between the public and private sectors (States and civil societies) in all parts of the Mediterranean;
3. to promote the Mediterranean as an eco-cultural area and to make its global dimension more visible.

These three aims are being pursued through practical actions in the field, to be carried out by local organizations and people grouped together in networks or forming *ad hoc* partnerships. Priority is being given to networks that are already operational and capable of financing all or part of their activities. Funding by UNESCO of the programme's projects and actions, but not the functioning of the networks, is being considered on a case-by-case basis, the aim being to contribute to their implementation, but always from the standpoint of co-financing.

The programme is developing around four major concerns, which are: the wish to bring into being a **culture of peace**; the laying of foundations for sustainable co-development; the promotion of inter-cultural dialogue focussed on Human Rights; and encouragement for the processes of Mediterranean globalization.


It is guided by the principles set out in the documents that constitute the corpus of UNESCO's major lines of activity, such as the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Convention on Climate Change, the 1995 Carthage Charter on Tolerance in the Mediterranean, etc..

The European Cultural Agency is associated with UNESCO in the implementation and execution of this programme.

The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in categories A and B have been informed of its launching and have been consulted so that activities already being undertaken by them in the Mediterranean may be taken into account.

UNESCO's Mediterranean Programme is a network of networks open to further developments and incorporations. It at present encompasses over 1000 organizations, centres, universities and municipalities which, in each country, should seek the support and collaboration of the National Commissions, UNESCO Clubs, Associated Schools and NGOs accredited to the Organization.

José VIDAL-BENEYTO



*The Director-General has appointed his Senior Special Adviser, Prof. José Vidal-Beneyto, to be the 'Focal Point' for the entire Mediterranean Programme. He is assisted in this task by Mr Gérard de Puymège.*



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UNESCO'S  
MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME



A MEDITERRANEAN  
*MULTAQA*

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## A Mediterranean MULTAQA



The characteristic feature of the **Mediterranean Programme** and its networks is their focus on the practical and operational. Being field structures involved in specific activities, they are not very visible, and this makes it necessary to create symbolic occasions which will highlight their global significance and their political will.

This role will be fulfilled by a Forum-Conference which, every three years, will bring together representatives of all the networks, in the presence of the Director-General, in order to make a positive assessment of the work of each of them and of all the Programme's activities. Leading figures in UNESCO's fields of competence will also be invited to these meetings in order to discuss, for three days, an important topic of world and Mediterranean significance and to propose new initiatives that could be taken up by the Programme and its networks. This Forum has been given the name of *Multaqa* an Arabic word which means both an assembly, a meeting place and a crossroads at which people must choose which way to go.

The first meeting will be held in Agrigento (Italy) from 4 to 7 June 1998. The meeting's general theme will be '**Cultures for Peace**', the main strands of which will be combating violence, sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue on human rights, within the framework of a global approach to the Mediterranean.