

II PROVA SCRITTA

TEMA 1



Il candidato elabori, in lingua inglese, sulla base della traccia fornita, una relazione da presentare a eventuali soggetti finanziatori, al fine di ottenere sponsorizzazioni o finanziamenti, specificando le problematiche, gli obiettivi, i risultati attesi, i possibili partner, il cronogramma delle attività e gli elaborati progettuali che saranno sviluppati nell'ambito del progetto.

Durante la Presidenza dell'Università di Zagabria della Conferenza dei Rettori dell'Alpe Adria per l'anno accademico 2011/2012, si è svolta il 26 maggio 2012 a Zagabria l'annuale Assemblea Plenaria.

Tra le varie proposte di collaborazione da attuarsi con la corrispondente Conferenza dei Rettori dell'Iniziativa Danubiana, è stato approvato il progetto denominato "Danube:Future – A sustainable future for the Danube river basin as a challenge for interdisciplinary humanities."

Riverine landscapes have been changed by humankind for millennia. This is particularly true for the Danube River Basin (DRB), which consists of highly dynamic ecological and political systems. The river basin of the ca. 2,800 km long Danube is shared by 19 countries with approx. 81 million people, and covers an area of ca. 800.000 km². Humans have lived in it from at least the Mesolithic period onwards. The DRB is the most international river basin in the world.

The DRB hosts a plethora of environmental problems; environmental legacies abound; and conflicts over resource use are particularly intense in its riverine landscapes. The Danube plays an important part for the development of a climate-friendly trans-European transportation network.

Rivers are neither cultural nor natural spaces. They are socio-natural sites, where the interplay of humans with the environment has taken place over long periods. Communities have had and still have to deal with cultural and natural legacies of past interventions. The current situation of the DRB cannot be understood – and hence a sustainable future not be planned – unless the common past of nature and humans is known.

European research and higher education funds do not generally foster interdisciplinary co-operation. In particular, the humanities have hither to not been stimulated to bring their expertise into the interdisciplinary portfolio of knowledge necessary for a transition to sustainability. Danube:Future is based on the fact that planning a sustainable future is impossible without a sound knowledge of the social as well as the natural past.

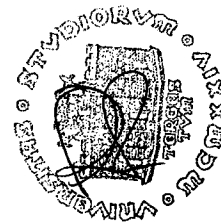
Among the most pressing environmental problems of the DRB are hydromorphological change, pollution, flooding, loss of biodiversity and the almost total demise of fisheries. Many of those problems will be exacerbated by global climate change. A humanities' perspective on the effects of global climate change and on mitigation options is urgently needed, as legacies of the past play a crucial – but currently underestimated – role in the study of possible sustainable futures.

If we use a new type of interdisciplinary methods and approaches – driven by humanities –, changes of biodiversity, sediment mobility, soils, climate, precipitation, discharge patterns and water quality can be studied in combination with changes in governance, or in the social, economic and legal situation, which will enable us to develop policies for sustainable development of the Danube river basin. The multilingualism of the DRB is a major challenge for which solutions have to be developed. Co-operation with state-of-the-art natural sciences is mandatory for success, but communication skills and co-operative structures have yet to be developed.

Danube: future aims at developing interdisciplinary research and education in the DRB simultaneously as a basis for the solution of pressing environmental issues and a sustainable future of the region.

A comparative perspective with other river basins (e.g. Po, Seine, Rhône) will bring knowledge and methodological skills from existing research teams into the project.

TEMA ESTRATTO



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