



INTERNATIONALE AKADEMIE BERLIN
für innovative Pädagogik, Psychologie und Ökonomie gGmbH (INA)



“Transboundary European World Heritage - a Topic for the UNESCO Project Schools”

Project of the Institute Heritage Studies (IHS) at the International Academy Berlin gGmbH (INA) in cooperation with coordinators from the State of Saxony for UNESCO Project Schools

Introduction to the topic and its objectives

European heritage and UNESCO World Heritage are closely linked—a large number of exceptional European heritage sites are listed as World Heritage and more than 20 of these European World Heritage sites are transnational. They have been collectively recognized by several countries and inscribed on the World Heritage list. Included, for example, in Saxony is "Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski" (dt / pl), the "Montanregion Erzgebirge / Krušnohoří" (dt / cz)—a World Heritage candidate; in the other federal states of Germany there are the "Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps" (at / de / fr / it / sl / ch), the "Frontiers of the Roman Empire" (dt / gb) and "the Architectural Work of Le Corbusier" (ar / be / fr / en / in / jp / ch). These transnational sites are representative of the unique way people in Europe have collaboratively created culture and community. Consequently, they validate the ideal of both national and transnational heritage.

Although it is well known that these sites are important to transnational understanding in Europe, they have rarely been developed for, and addressed to, immediate populations. This is all the more surprising since participatory countries have committed themselves to involving people within the framework of UNESCO's Global Strategy. What is more, this has not been advanced to the next generation or used as a topic in European education. It follows that the European Cultural Heritage Year (ECHY) has provided an appropriate framework to advance this "shared European World Heritage" and its transnational significance, which thereby fosters international understanding. Consequently, the younger generations are to be targeted as part of the scope of this project.

Target groups and goals

The aim of the project is to advance and secure, over the longterm, the theme of "shared World Cultural Heritage" to the network of UNESCO Project Schools in Europe. This network is to be strengthened through the transnational cooperation of the UNESCO Project Schools in their work with cultural heritage. The project also aims to engage European students in the importance of these shared cultural heritage sites and their sustainable development. UNESCO Project Schools are committed to integrating the goals and ideals of UNESCO into the curriculum and everyday school life. As such the focal point is the mediation of UNESCO World



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Heritage. The UNESCO Associated School Network founded in 1953 has now over 10,000 educational institutions worldwide and is administered by a coordination office in Paris. This office cooperates closely with the national coordinators of the UNESCO Project Schools. In Germany, due to the federal structure of the country, coordinators are accountable only to a constituent state. However, they are internationally networked all the same.

The target groups are approached multi-dimensionally in line with the aims of the project, to promote and strengthen the network of UNESCO Project Schools in Europe through activities related to a shared cultural heritage. These are to anchor and sustain the significance of the protective aspects within and the usage of the World Heritage Convention, especially in drawing attention to its importance to transnational European World Heritage sites. Within the context of strengthening and sustainably promoting the network of UNESCO Project Schools, the project targets the existing national and regional coordination of participating countries. More specifically, the project addresses the schools, the students and the teachers working within the network, as well as the respectively engaged and interested parents. All of the aforementioned target groups are involved in the project's implementation right from the start. The potential to attract young people across Europe holds promise in establishing a digital platform and further developing workshop outcomes into educational videos. The project will thereby have a broad impact.

Implementation

Given the overall parameters of the project and the behind-the-scenes funding by ECHY, the project has a nationwide reach. The Free State of Saxony is project partner with special interest in the project's implementation envisioned for Saxony. As an eastern German federal state, Saxony maintains close relations with the neighbouring countries of Poland and the Czech Republic. Their transnational cooperation has been exceptionally good and mutually enriching as evinced by the shared cultural heritage proposed and inscribed as transnational sites. Further to this context are the shared efforts made towards transnational World Heritage sites. As a result, transnational cultural and World Heritage in Saxony is represented relatively well and the population of Saxony is tangibly aware of it. Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski and the Montanregion Erzgebirge / Krušnohoří are both considered transnational World Heritage and are communicated and presented as German-Polish or German-Czech World Heritage respectively. As such a shared communicative understanding has already been put into practice between these European countries, and it is from this existent familiarity that the project can draw on. The inclusion of additional German federal states with transnational World Heritage sites is also in the works. Participants in the implementation of the project in Saxony include the World Heritage Commissioner of the Free State of Saxony and the State Coordinator of the UNESCO Project



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Schools. Other project implementation partners in Saxony are the National Coordinators of the UNESCO Project Schools from Poland and the Czech Republic. The project is structured on close cooperation with the aforementioned actors and the IHS. As a specialist partner the IHS is responsible for developing concepts and content, as well as advancing the theme of World Heritage.

The sites in Saxony that were considered relevant for inclusion are: "Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski" and the "Montanregion Erzgebirge / Krušnohoří". As a transnational site "Muskauer Park" extends over both sides of the German-Polish border. The park embodies the history of European division and unification and sheds light on the years of close German-Polish cooperation in the field of cultural heritage protection. The "Montanregion Erzgebirge / Krušnohoří" is a serial cultural landscape extending over both sides of the German-Czech border. It is characterized by a diverse mining heritage as well as traditions related to mining in the region. In this regard, these two sites as part of the project offer insight into European history, the present and the future, and World Heritage as an especially valuable cultural asset.

To help implement the project a research associate will be hired by the IHS. The State of Saxony Coordination Office for UNESCO Project Schools will establish the links to students, teachers and requisite members of the public; it will also provide for the appropriate technical and pedagogical preparation of project activities. In implementing the 2019 Project with other transnational World Heritage sites, for example in Baden-Württemberg, and in line with the directives of the project, Saxon expertise will be applied, and the State Coordinators of the UNESCO Project Schools will also be incorporated. Upon first meeting, the project partners, together with teachers and an external company with expertise in digital platforms and other formations, will develop concrete objectives, content and implementation strategies, and plan for the further implementation of events.

In order to achieve the stated goals, the following definitive benchmarks should be met in implementing the project from November 2018 - December 2019:

1. Three workshops will be held for students and teachers from the UNESCO Project Schools of participating federal states at the designated transnational German World Heritage sites. The focus of these workshops will be the intercultural exchange of a shared cultural heritage. In response to the topic, "what UNESCO World Heritage means for Europe today," participants will discuss initially on a theoretical basis the World Heritage Convention and its significance for international understanding. By working and conversing together, individual views and perspectives will be revealed and the connective aspects of cultural heritage and national treasures will become clear. In grappling with European cultural World Heritage, students will possibly gain an intercultural understanding of Europe and thereby learn about themselves, as Europeans.

As an outcome of the workshops, students will have created instructional videos under the professional guidance of media educators, whereby students introduce the World Heritage site from the perspective of an international team and shed light on the site's significance for Europe. The educational videos will target specifically young people and will be published on a digital platform (see point 2). The teachers will support the creation of these videos in a professional capacity.

2. A digital platform is to be developed. The following contents are planned: the conception and significance of transnational UNESCO World Heritage sites in Europe; the presentation of the Saxon sites and their shared history graphically depicted through photos and maps; shared perspectives; and the advantages and disadvantages of inter-state collaboration, etc. The platform's purpose is to digitally communicate shared European World Heritage and to provide the students and teachers of UNESCO Project Schools the opportunity to inform themselves and to discuss topics. The platform therefore aims to create awareness of topics, and to provide and network understanding. The Saxon sites serve as reference points for expanding the project to sites in other federal states. The platform itself serves to safeguard the outcomes and to make public the project results, in particular the educational videos, which provide commentary and can be disseminated. The platform demonstrates ways in which UNESCO Project Schools can make use of their network and work together on topics. Furthermore, it conveys the use of transnational sites as places of intercultural learning. The digital platform is accessible to everyone. As such, it can reach teachers and students from all types of schools, and young people from across Europe—extending well beyond the network of UNESCO Project Schools.

3. Exercise sheets will be created for the transnational European World Heritage sites. These exercise sheets will be designed to motivate and empower teachers to integrate topics into their classrooms. The lay out of the worksheets will be such that teachers can design a teaching unit around them. The exercise sheets contain both background information for teachers as well as tasks for students of different skill levels. The exercise sheets will be available in an open source format, accessible by all schools, and can be adapted to the individual needs and standards of each school. In regards to content, the exercise sheets will focus on the European history of transnational World Heritage sites, drawing special attention to the importance of the World Heritage Convention in bringing people together. The exercise sheets will also be made public on a digital platform.

4. In concluding the project, outcomes will be presented at an international conference. The national and regional coordinators of the UNESCO Project Schools and representative students and teachers will be in attendance. The aim of the conference is to go over and process the



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results together, as well as to discuss and plan for the sustainable continuation of the project. Moreover, the conference will make a broader public outreach possible.

Sustainability

In the long term the project is structured to meet all of the requisites to strengthen the UNESCO Project School network and to raise awareness of the importance of transnational European World Heritage with students and teachers. Prospective collaboration between the national coordinators will be made possible. Respectively, the national coordination will assume responsibility for maintaining the digital platform and conducting an additional workshop at a transnational site. Over time it will be possible to incorporate other national coordination offices and to deal with additional European transnational World Heritage sites. The digital platform can be continually expanded and new educational videos and materials will be integrated. This flagship project will then be presented to the coordination office of the UNESCO Associated School Project Network which assumably would take over the long-term coordination of the project.