CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
UNESCO Training on Building a Climate Resilient Future: Capacity Development in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in Selected UNESCO Designated Sites of South-East Europe
(Deadline: 10 September 2022 – 23.59 CET)

Background of the project
The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, with the support of Bulgaria, is implementing the project “Building a climate resilient future: capacity development in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in selected UNESCO designated sites of South-East Europe”.

The project aims to contribute to a more climate-resilient South-East Europe region, notably climate resilience at UNESCO designated sites by improving the understanding of the impacts of climatic change and natural hazards on natural and cultural sites, and improving capacities for effective emergency preparedness and response within site governance frameworks.

The project targets 5 UNESCO Member states in South-East Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The project envisages institutional and professional capacity development through the introduction of a set of regional guidelines and tools in the areas of Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Management and the organization of training for UNESCO designated sites, notably Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites in South-East Europe.

About the training
The training will bring site managing authorities of UNESCO designated sites in the region (Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites) together with civil protection authorities, researchers and key experts in the fields of climate change, disaster risk management, and protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage. The training will be held in presence and will last 5 days, and all costs for travel and accommodation are to be covered by UNESCO.

Learning outcomes
The training is expected to:

1. advance knowledge and skills concerning climate change-related hazards, as well as the vulnerability of natural and cultural sites to these hazards taking into account regional, national and local dynamics, specific cultural contexts and promoting innovative governance and community based models;
2. facilitate adaptation of management plans to take into account climate change and climate related disasters for UNESCO designated sites;
3. introduce appropriate methodologies and tools to enhance resilience and promote sustainable development in the sites of the target region;
4. support the establishment of effective and participatory governance in the sites, which includes mechanisms facilitating the coordination of national, local, and civil society organizations and international actors;
5. develop stakeholder networks to identify and analyze the gaps in existing policies and potential cooperation perspectives regarding the climate-related disasters risks management.

Where and where

The training will take place on 17-21 October 2022 in the Republic of North Macedonia, specifically in the Ohrid region multi-designated area.

Eligible participants

The training targets five UNESCO Member States from South-East Europe, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

Within those five countries, the call for participation is open to different types of target audiences:

1. Site managing authorities and local authorities representing UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites from listed UNESCO Member States
2. National authorities responsible for natural and cultural heritage
3. Civil protection authorities
4. Country climate change focal points

Criteria for selection

Eligible candidates will need to submit an application. The applications will be evaluated and participants selected according to the following specific competencies, and the perceived potential to effectively apply the knowledge and tools that will be acquired through the training:

1. Professional qualifications and experience: site managing authorities of UNESCO designated sites, civil protection authorities, UNESCO National Commissions, UNESCO Chairs, Centers, networks (IHP, MAB), Academia and University, and key experts
2. Areas of expertise: climate change, disaster risk management, and protection and promotion of Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites
3. Demonstrated motivation: participant’s objectives and goals
4. Language ability: Proficiency in English is required
5. Letter of support/email from the National Commission or concerned Ministry responsible for Culture, Environment or civil protection/ministry of interior

The selection of the participants will consider the geographical and gender balance, and special attention will be given to applications from young professionals (under 35).

A maximum of 20 applicants will be selected.

How to apply

Interested participants are invited to submit applications by 10 September 2022 by filling in the online application form and sending their CV or short bio to: Regional.Bureau-SC@unesco.org.

Questions related to the preparation of the application can be addressed to the above e-mail address.