



## **UNESCO Colloquium on Access to Underwater Cultural Heritage**

Numerous underwater cultural heritage sites can be found in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, ranging from prehistoric submerged landscape sites to more modern sites as for instance the impressive remains of the sea battles of the first and second World Wars. While the sites are of highest scientific interest, a clear difference is still made in their appreciation and the attention given to them when compared to terrestrial sites. The reason lies mainly in the gap in the access to the sites, the possibilities to research them or simply to enjoy them.

Underwater cultural heritage holds however a high potential for sustainable development of coastal regions. Today tourism and recreation is a higher factor for employment in coastal regions than the fishing industry. 37 % of tourism is motivated by cultural heritage. Thus making submerged heritage accessible constitutes immense chances for valorizing it, for using its scientific and educational value and for making the local communities benefit.

A scientific colloquium is thus organized on 9 June 2016 to allow for the exchange of experiences, to motivate new regional initiatives and to inspire new ways to make underwater cultural heritage accessible.

Please let us know, if you wish to contribute with a presentation (please have however understanding that time space is limited, and not all proposals might thus be accommodated).

Dates: 9 June 2016 UNESCO Scientific Colloquium

Place: National Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark

Participants Colloquium: Experts, scientists, museum and tourism professionals

A complementary conference excursion will be organized on the afternoon of 8 June and an official reception is offered on the evening of that same day.

*Please note that the colloquium is preceded by a UNESCO Regional Meeting on Underwater Cultural Heritage on 8 June 2016, open only to State Representatives.*

## Provisional Agenda

### UNESCO Scientific Colloquium on Access to Underwater Cultural Heritage

Thursday 9 June, UNESCO Conference	
8:30 am	Welcome and registration
9:00 am	<b>Keynote Speech: Access to Underwater Cultural Heritage – How to make the difference through providing access</b>
9:30 am	<b>Session 1 Underwater Cultural Heritage in Museums</b> <i>15 min per speaker</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involving the public</li><li>• Sharing good practices</li><li>• Did the <i>Vasa</i> make the difference?</li></ul> <i>Discussion and Roundtable</i>
11:00 am	<i>Coffee</i>
11:30 am	<b>Session 2 Access to Underwater Cultural Heritage <i>in situ</i></b> <i>15 min per speaker</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can <i>in situ</i> truly enchant the public?</li><li>• The challenges of <i>in situ</i> visits and the responsibility of the diving industry</li><li>• Guaranteeing sustainable and responsible access</li></ul> <i>Discussion and Roundtable</i>
1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00 pm	<b>Session 3 Virtual Access to Underwater Cultural Heritage</b> <i>15 min per speaker</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The advances and importance of virtual reality for underwater heritage</li><li>• Technical challenges in providing virtual access to scientists and the public at large</li><li>• Building a common 3D Platform</li></ul> <i>Discussion and Roundtable</i>
3:30	<i>Coffee</i>
4:00 pm	<b>Session 4 The use of Underwater Cultural Heritage for Tourism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creating ship wrecks and underwater routes for the sake of tourism</li><li>• Connecting the maritime tradition to underwater cultural heritage</li><li>• The interest of the small cruising industry</li></ul> <i>Discussion and Roundtable</i>
17:30	<b>Closure</b>