

ANDREA BONIFACIO**Deputy Director, Marco Polo System G.E.I.E. (Municipality of Venice)**

Andrea Bonifacio, born in Venice, has a degree in Economics and Management of Arts and Culture from the University Ca' Foscari of Venice.

In the beginning of his activity, in the 1980s, he alternated studies and jobs in cultural productions and financials assistance to SME, mainly craftsmen in Venice old town.

From 2005 to 2009 he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Tourist Office of the Province of Venice.

In last ten years he has been one of the main collaborators of Marco Polo System EEIG (Structure of Community law established by the City of Venice and the Union of Municipalities of Greece - KEDE). He has been in charge of planning and managing the reuse process of fortified systems with particular reference to the cultural, social and economic sustainability in the Venice area. He also developed initiatives of intercultural and international cultural relations. He oversaw the creation of numerous publications and cultural events, establishing links with cultural institutions and representatives in Europe and in the Mediterranean area.

In this framework he was involved in the creation and management of many projects for cultural cooperation and heritage management, funded by local or European institutions, and created a specific unit for the conservation and the development of traditional boats and the related culture and knowledge, setting up a Traditional Boats Museum in Forte Marghera (Venice), which is associated to the AMMM Mediterranean Maritime Museums Association.

He is one of the creators and organizers of Kontakt, a series of activities started in 2002 and focused on multiculturalism between Venice and the Balkans: concerts, art exhibitions, films, lectures, and conferences. Among them is remarkable "Bridges and Borders", an interdisciplinary meeting on historical and cultural ties between Venice and the Balkans. He is co-director of the multidisciplinary festival of contemporary art "Art Kontakt Festival", held in Albanian castles since 2007.

Is member of the scientific committee of Tuvalu Pavilion in the 2015 Art Biennale of Venice and the co-founder of the Eco Art Centre, born thanks to the collateral activities of the pavilion.

He is the author of the book *Istria e Dalmazia, le città della Serenissima e la loro difesa*, Venezia 2013, curator of the book *Barche tradizionali della laguna veneta*, Venezia, 2013, and author of several articles and audio-visual products. He has been speaker in several conferences and seminars.

Maritime Heritage: networks of Mediterranean institutions in global context

Museums are cultural landscape condensers, active in the evolution of contemporary society. They are spaces for the interaction between cultural heritage, mankind work and environment. The Mediterranean Maritime Museums are involved in the collection,

interpretation and preservation of the meanings and values related to the sea and its culture. In last years, their functions were enlarged and their connection with territory and society became stronger, often leading a real local cultural network and a tool for territory development. Several maritime museums are clear examples of this attitude, involving in their activities, as strategic tools, citizens and associations providers of living knowledge.

The networking activities between museums is another strategic tool: the Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums (AMMM) is formed by maritime museums, heritage management institutions and cultural entities acting in the field of maritime heritage from different countries in the Mediterranean area: Algeria, Croatia, France, Gibraltar (UK), Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Principality of Monaco, Slovenia, Spain, and Turkey. AMMM was created in 1998 with the aims to promote the diffusion, safeguard and awareness of the maritime heritage of the Mediterranean basin. To fulfil these objectives, the Association fosters the activities organised by its members and develops joint action programs. The value of this network can be well understood when the issues related to the cataloguing of floating objects are discussed and solved adopting a common specific methodology, or when a new temporary exhibition project can find a large partnership for its scientific and practical production, and a larger number of venues where to show it.

AMMM is actually working for better interpret their relationship with urban ecosystems and the assets protection, in the perspective of a social, economic and environmental sustainability, integrating the evolutionary context of the territory in local and transcontinental levels. In last AMMM Forum, the members shared their experiences and exchanged best practices, discussed scientific and operational guidelines with these objectives. The next step will be the participation in the International Council of Museums (ICOM) General Conference to be held in Milan (Italy) in 2016, entitled "Museums and cultural landscapes".

