VSF | VENICE SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION



Venice Sustainability Foundation

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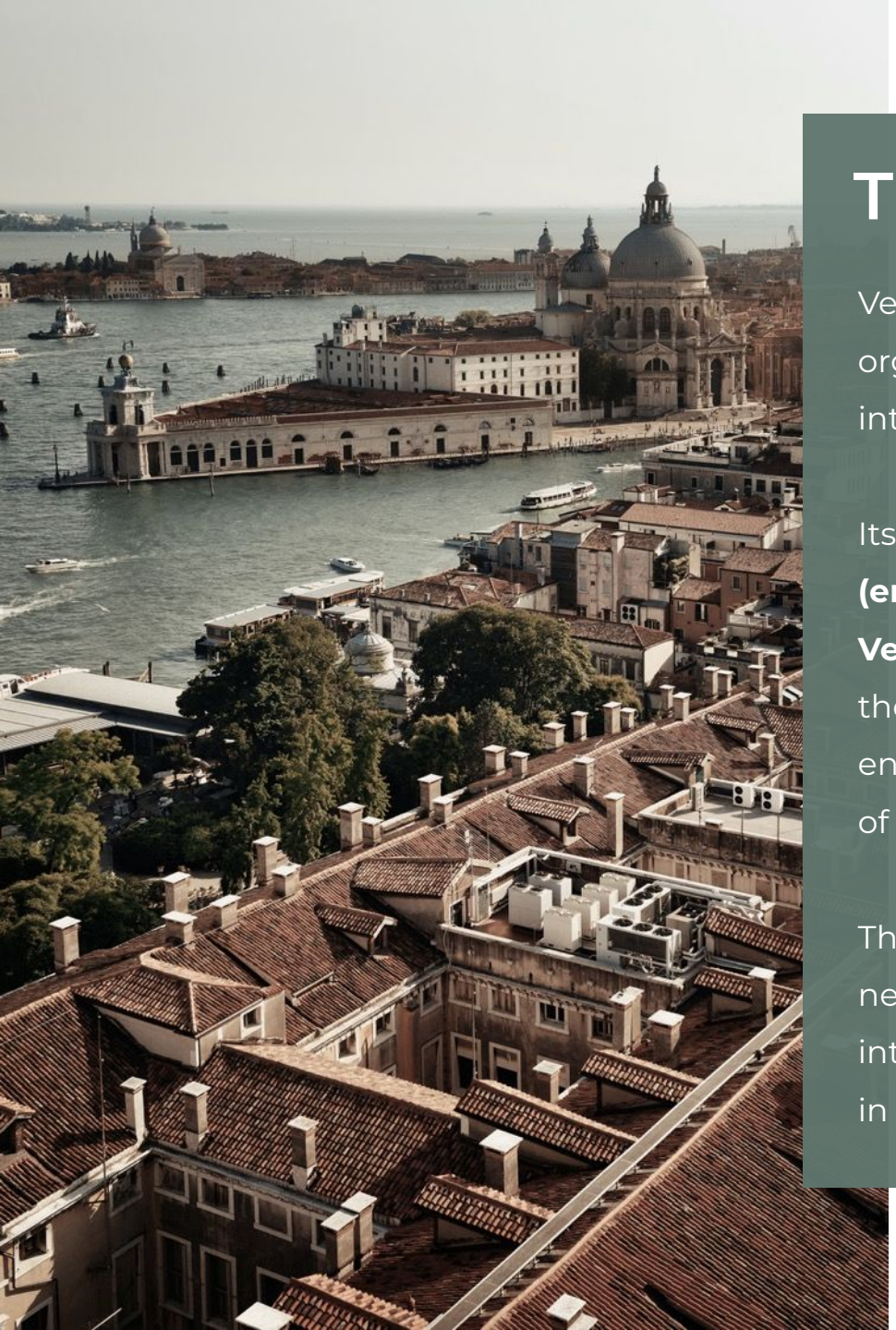


The Foundation

Venice Sustainability Foundation (VSF) is an articulated **partnership** of organizations, academic and cultural institutions, public and private enterprises interested in the sustainable future of Venice and its metropolitan area.

Its mission is to **create an integrated model of sustainable development (encompassing environmental, economic, social, and cultural dimensions) for Venice and its metropolitan area**, with implications for the entire Veneto region. At the same time, it seeks to ensure the protection and the conservation of the environmental, historical, and cultural heritage, as well as to strengthen the cohesion of the local community.

Thanks to its characteristics, Venice is an **ideal laboratory** for developing and testing new solutions for urban sustainability. Venice is also a city of highest national and international **visibility**, with great potential resonance for any activity implemented in its territory.

VSF governance

PRESIDENT

Renato Brunetta, appointed by the Prime Minister.

VICEPRESIDENTS

Alberto Stefani, President of the Veneto Region, and **Simone Venturini**, Mayor of Venice.

STEERING COUNCIL

It provides strategic direction and oversight for the Foundation, and coordinates and supervises the activities of the Director General.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Alessandro Costa is responsible for managing the Foundation and is vested with full powers of ordinary and extraordinary administration.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Chaired by **Paolo Costa**, provides advisory opinions and non-binding proposals regarding the Foundation's activity programs and any potential strategic and/or scientific plans.

STATUTORY BOARD

Chaired by **Enrico Zanetti**, it is responsible for overseeing the activities of the Foundation

REVISORE

KPMG is the auditor of the Foundation.

VSF partnership



40 partners: 13 Founding members, 23 Cofounding members, 4 Supporting members

VSF approach

VSF **facilitates, promotes and accelerates projects** proposed by **its members**, leveraging its broad partnership network to streamline implementation.

The Foundation's **collaborative approach** demonstrates the critical role of **multi-stakeholder engagement** in advancing adaptation and sustainability across Venice and its surrounding territory.

Activities are organized around **nine thematic areas**, each addressing a key issue for the sustainable development of the Venetian territory, complemented by **four cross-cutting areas**.



Thematic areas

HYDROGEN
Develop a hydrogen economy and an H2 Valley in the port-industrial area of Porto Marghera.

RESIDENCY
Support initiatives that encourage permanent residency in Venice.

SOCIAL INCLUSION
Create an inclusive, secure, resilient and sustainable local community.

ENERGY TRANSITION AND ENVIRONMENT
Promote renewable energy sources and support sustainable mobility and the protection of the lagoon ecosystem.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
Research and promote sustainable tourism models and solutions.

CULTURE OF LEGALITY
Support initiatives to uphold the rule of law, combat illegal activities, and enhance urban decorum.

VENICE CITY CAMPUS
Foster the development of an urban knowledge-based economic cluster to revitalize the city's socio-economic fabric.

INNOVATION
Develop business innovation and acceleration activities in the field of sustainability.

INNOVATIVE CULTURAL PRODUCTIONS
Promote innovative cultural projects bridging art, science, technology, and sustainability.

Cross-cutting areas



TARGET-SCENARIO FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY IN VENICE AND ITS METROPOLITAN AREA

It involves a comprehensive approach to analyzing and crafting an integrated sustainability scenario for the metropolitan area.

This area includes three **projects**:
- **History of the resilience of Venice**;

Homonymous publication (VSF Quad. no.3, Nov 17, 2025);
- **Sustainability observatory**;
- **Integrated urban sustainability scenario**;

Publication “Integrated urban sustainability scenario for Venice and its territory” (VSF Issue. no.2, Jul 21, 2025).



SUSTAINABILITY BIENNALE

This **event series** facilitates knowledge **exchange on urban sustainability**, leveraging Venice's distinctive challenges and solutions.

Following first edition "**The Era of MOSE**" (2023) with 5 conferences and 7 side events, "**Urbs et Civitas**" (2025) expanded the program to include 4 international conferences, over 10 side events, and the major exhibition ***Intelligent Venice*: *The Oldest City of the Future***, complemented by workshops, guided tours, and a catalogue.



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Different activities to address the sustainability aspects of financing initiatives in the Venetian area, including:
- an **operational protocol** for assessing the use of sustainable financial tools (e.g. green bonds);
- a pilot project to validate a **bank–enterprise ESG standard**;
- the facilitation of **thematic working groups**.



VENICE RESILIENCE HUB UNDRR-MCR2030

In 2023, Venice was designated a **Resilience Hub** under the Making Cities Resilient 2030 global partnership (MCR2030), promoted by UNDRR.

The Municipality of Venice entrusted **VSF** to carry out this role through initiatives to **share local best practices** in **climate prevention, response, and resilience**.

VSF “Quaderni” Series



Issue 1 | February 2025

From the Lagoon to the Moon

Exploring the future of the Space Industry in the Veneto region and its potential for innovation and economic growth.



Issue 2 | July 2025

Integrated Urban Sustainability Scenario for Venice and Its Territory

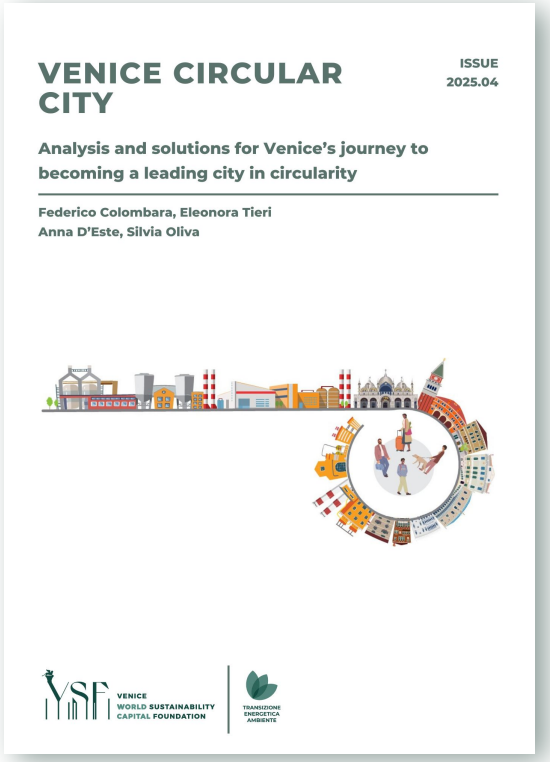
Findings from a survey of VSF partners on Venice and its functional area, identifying shared priorities for an integrated sustainability framework.



Issue 3 | November 2025

History of the Resilience of Venice

Economic, social, and urban challenges and transformations that have shaped Venice's resilience over the past two centuries.



Issue 4 | December 2025

Venice Circular City

Analysis and pathways for Venice's transition towards becoming a leading circular economy hub through the identification and study of 20+ international cases.

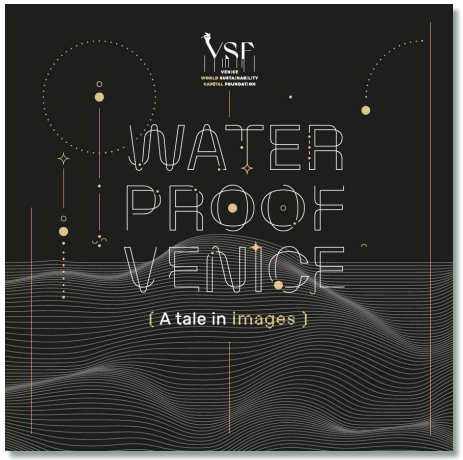
Other VSF publications



November 2023

[MOSE Italian ingenuity]

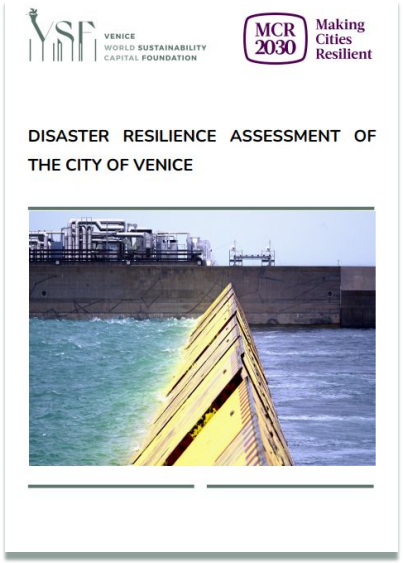
Monographic issue on MOSE published by FORTUNE Italia, featuring interviews, analysis, ideas, and insights.



May 2024

Booklet of the exhibition [Waterproof Venice. A tale in images]

Installation booklet presenting sustainable and innovative projects by VSF partners for Venice and its surrounding area.



March 2025

Report [Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities]

Developed in collaboration with UNDRR, it provides a comprehensive assessment of Venice's cultural heritage resilience and disaster risk reduction strategies.



November 2025

Booklet of the exhibition [Intelligent Venice. The oldest city of the future]

Catalog of the exhibition organized by VSF as a special project for the Venice Biennale Architettura 2025.

Visit: intelligentvenice.it

VSF

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