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Euromed Heritage 4 التركة الأوروبية المتوسطية

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Cultural Heritage, a vehicle to improve the quality of life

Actors from the South of the Mediterranean meet in Brussels to exchange lessons learnt and to focus on heritage as vector for development

Around **40 Civil Society representatives** from Cultural Heritage Southern Mediterranean organizations will meet in Brussels on March 20th - 22nd, 2012. They will exchange lessons learnt and showcase the achievements of **Euromed- Heritage 4 (EH)** regional programme. During the 3-day visit they will also train on appropriation and transmission methodologies, with the objective to become 'Ambassadors' of the programme at country level, reaching out institutions as well as civil society organizations and the general public. Finally, they will meet members of the European Parliament to present projects' results and impacts.

Among the recommendations high on the agenda of this conference, there is the idea that the development of heritage resources – monuments, artifacts, buildings, music, stories etc – is a key for the advancement of local communities. "Throughout these years we have seen the potentials that heritage has for economic and human development – says Christiane Dabdoub Nasser, EH4 Capacity development team leader - and we have witnessed an improvement in the quality of life, particularly in historic city centers". According to Dabdoub Nasser, Euromed Heritage has been a vehicle for healthy and fruitful 'north-south' and 'south-south' exchanges of knowledge, experiences and good practice. "Working together, partner countries from the North and from the South have shown how heritage resources can be mobilised in 'development' schemes that cater to the public good".

Background

Euromed Heritage 4 is the 4th phase of a regional EU funded programme started in 1998. It was launched in 2008 and a total of **EUR 17 millions** have been committed through 12 projects **to fund partnerships** between heritage experts and institutions from the countries of the South Mediterranean Sea and the Member States of the EU. Their main objectives were the development of human resources for a better management and preservation of heritage, promotion of exchanges between cultures and cooperation between civil society groups.

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