

Manumed II: Of Manuscripts and Men

Countries involved: Algeria, Belgium, East Jerusalem, Egypt, France

Themes: *manuscripts, linguistic diversity, handicraft, conservation, education & training*

Lead Partner:

- Centre de Conservation du Livre -France
<http://www.ccl-fr.org> / <http://www.manumed.org/>
Contact person: [Stéphane IPERT](#)

Partners:

- Université Catholique de Louvain - UCL (Belgium)
<http://www.uclouvain.be>
- Bled el Anneb (Algeria)
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt)
<http://www.bibalex.org>
- Arab Studies Society -ASS (East Jerusalem)
<http://www.arabstudiessociety.org>

Summary:

MANUMED II, sequel to MANUMED I (EHII) contributed to the preservation of the diversity of the written heritage, and its corollary, language, as an intangible heritage. It gave priority to training in the field of cultural heritage and particularly focused on involving the youth in the development of contemporary creations, on paying more attention to national and minority languages in the region, and on supporting craftsmen who work in the domain of manuscripts and are still practicing ancestral techniques. A shared Virtual Library of the Mediterranean, multi-lingual, multi-alphabetical, written and acoustic, was developed within the project.

Main achievements:

- Developed a mechanism for continuing education for librarians and archivers
- Preservation and enhancement of diverse writing forms and Mediterranean languages
- Raising awareness among populations, particularly youth, of written and spoken heritage: development of video game, calligraphy contests, exhibitions...
- Enhancement and promotion of book artisans in the Mediterranean : a repertory of 97 artisans from 12 Mediterranean countries
- Easier access to heritage documentary collections through new information and communication technologies: development of a virtual library of manuscripts with more than 2 million items presented.
- Nineteen training sessions for professionals
- Various thematic publications on the subject, radio and video features, etc.
- An international conference on Illicit traffic
- A strong network of specialised institutions – agreements with the Agha Khan Foundation and Sabanci Museum