

## MedLiHer: Safeguarding Mediterranean Living Heritage

**Countries involved:** Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

**Themes:** *institution & legislative building, intangible heritage, inventory*

### Lead Partner:

- UNESCO, Paris

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00233>

### Partners:

- Ministry of Higher Education (National Commission of UNESCO in Egypt)  
<http://www.egnatcom.org.eg>
- Ministry of Education (National Commission of UNESCO in Jordan)  
<http://www.junesco.gov.jo>
- Ministry of Culture - Lebanon  
<http://www.culture.gov.lb>
- Ministry of Culture (Direction de la sauvegarde du patrimoine populaire) - Syria
- Maison des Cultures du Monde - France  
<http://www.mcm.asso.fr>

### Summary :

MedLiHer aimed to **reinforce the institutional capacities** of the four partner countries, and facilitate their effective participation in the international mechanisms established by the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage through three main actions: drawing up surveys of existing structures and programmes connected with safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the countries mentioned above; developing national projects conceived on the basis of the needs of each partner country; implementing national projects, and preparing candidatures for inscription on the UNESCO Convention lists.

The project, addressed to the partner countries' governmental communities and institutions, leads to the safeguarding of the regional intangible cultural heritage according to the Convention's criteria, as well as the reinforcement of capacities within governmental institutions.

### Main achievements:

- Institutional impact :
  - Improved capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in governmental institutions and amongst main actors within civil societies and communities with a view to implement the Convention in partner countries.
  - Creation / reinforcing of new institutional entities involved in ICH with highly qualified personnel in the concepts and mechanisms of the Convention.
  - Development of inventories of intangible heritage according to Convention guidelines and leaning on methodologies and capacities developed within the project.
  - Preparation of candidacy files on intangible heritage in the three partner countries for the World Heritage List.
- Partner countries ratify a legally binding tool for safeguarding of ICH
- A database of intangible heritage, brochures, regional film and photographic exhibition are disseminated within the partner countries, and the region and will increase visibility of ICH and raise public awareness to the value of its safeguarding.