

Remee: Rediscovering together the water heritage in the Mediterranean region

Countries involved: Algeria, France, Greece, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey

Themes: *Youth, water management, environment, education & training, conservation & rehabilitation, cultural tourism*

Lead Partner:

Association pour la Participation et l'Action Régionale (A.P.A.RE.) - France

<http://www.apare-gec.org> / <http://www.remee.eu/>

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Partners:

- Office de l'Environnement de la Corse (OEC) - France
<http://www.oec.fr>
- CMEM - Centre Méditerranéen de l'Environnement de Marrakech- Morocco
- Association pour l'Education Relative à l'Environnement d'Hammamet (AERE) - Tunisia
- Association de Réflexion d'Echanges et d'Action pour l'Environnement et le Développement (AREA-ED) - Algeria
- The Association of Friends of Gököva-Akyaka (Gas-Der) - Turkey
- Mediterranean Centre for Environment (MKP) - Greece
<http://www.medcenv.org/>

Summary:

This project aims to promote the preservation of vernacular heritage linked to water management in the Euro-Mediterranean region; intensify public awareness, particularly among the youth, of the value of this heritage and the need to protect it; promote water management techniques linked to this heritage; and promote, together with local populations, local development projects based on the principle of enhancing this heritage.

Water heritage in the Mediterranean region reflects the way rural and urban populations coped with the scarcity of water and how they organised local structures around water management. Most of this vernacular heritage is unprotected and recent developments, both societal and economic, including the mechanisation of agriculture, migrations from rural areas, and unruly urban expansion, threaten its survival. Legal protection runs short of meeting current needs and an awareness campaign targeting decision makers as well as the general public is necessary.

This project is based on the development of a common methodology for the protection and management of water heritage resources.

Main achievements:

- 4 pilot actions in Algeria, Morocco (two), and Tunisia that include enhancement of water heritage resources, development of eight tourism discovery circuits in Hammamet, Tlemcen, and Marrakech, development of an eco-museum in Hammamet, rescue operations of water fountains in old Marrakech, rehabilitation works, organization of in situ training camps, and development of literature and guides for the circuits.
- Development of four inventories of water heritage for four territories in the Mediterranean
- Development of an educational programme for youth and implementation of five educational workshops on water heritage in the three partner countries.
- Development of an educational centre in Morocco.
- Development of a manual for the management of the hammams
- Awareness-raising actions - including local and regional exhibitions and the launching of the Citrus Festival in Hammamet – and strengthening the role of civil society in water preservation issues.
- Established the basis for the development of a water heritage resource centre for the Mediterranean.

- Consolidation of works in Morocco through accords between Tamesloht Municipality , the agricultural authorities and local associations for the pursuit of educational programmes around water heritage.
- Consolidation of works in Tunisia through an agreement between the ministry of Culture and AERE< a local association for the creation of an eco-museum.