

PRESS RELEASE



Euromed Heritage
التراث الأوروبي المتوسطي

Which future for Mediterranean cultural heritage?

Euromed Heritage closing conference in Fez from 21 to 23 January

BRUSSELS - The [Euromed Heritage programme](#) (EH) is announcing the holding of its closing conference on 21-23 January 2013, in Fez, in Morocco. The conference will present the achievements of the EU funded programme and engage participants in a debate that will focus on accomplishments and how best to build on them for the future of Mediterranean cultural heritage.

In the course of 15 years, Euromed Heritage has shown the potentials that heritage has on economic and human development and the improvement of the quality of life. The overall message coming out of the programme is that heritage resources can be mobilised in 'development' schemes that cater to the public good. Concretely, the 4th phase of the programme has developed a broad network of more than 500 experts in the heritage field from both the public and private sectors of the Region. It has created a database of 450.000 ancient manuscripts and a video-archive library of 4.000 videos from 14 TV stations to preserve the extraordinary value of this heritage and to stir appropriation and sharing by local populations. It has produced tenths of inventories of ancient theatres, water heritage resources, oral history, craftsmen, handicrafts etc. It has enhanced socio economical opportunities by creating about 30 new tourism circuits, 3 eco/open air museums, a traditional Market (the Melkart Market) and by training over 100 new tour guides. It has developed capacity building by introducing over 1.500 teachers to cultural heritage, by training in conservation over 800 professionals and young people, and by introducing to traditional craftsmen skills hundreds of men and women. It has raised awareness of cultural heritage among thousands of children and adults through interactive workshops, field visits, campaigns, seminars, exhibitions and didactic games.

"After almost 15 year of existence – says Eneko Landaburu, the EU Ambassador in Morocco – Euromed Heritage has become a label of quality and good practices in cultural heritage development in the region: the knowledge and skills acquired within this programme should allow each country to follow the same course and take heritage preservation further on the road to development. ”.

The recommendations resulting from the Conference should propose orientations for future strategic changes, among which an enhanced and better defined role of civil society groups and the private sector, their relationship with the authorities, and the framework within which collaboration among them could occur. At the operational level, a stronger role for civil society means to target higher return on funds and efforts, for example through direct capacity building, better planning, implementation of pilot projects, etc. These recommendations should contribute to the formulation of a new strategy for cultural heritage for 2013-2020.

Participants to the conference - which is organised with the support of the Ministry of Culture of Morocco and in collaboration with Ader-Fes - will include representatives of the authorities in partner countries of the EU, representatives of civil society organisations, and professional practitioners. The conference will be opened by Mohamed Amine SBIHI, Minister of Culture and by the EU Ambassador in Morocco, Eneko Landaburu.

Since 1998, Euromed Heritage represents an essential instrument for the preservation and valuation of cultural heritage as well as a catalyst for mutual understanding between the populations of the Mediterranean region. The [Euromed Heritage programme](#) - now in its 4th phase - develops its actions within the European Union, but above all, in the Mediterranean partner countries of the EU. Between 1998 and 2007, € 57 million have been allocated for the financing of 32 projects involving entities and professionals working in the field of heritage around the Mediterranean.

For more information : Daniela Cavini d.cavini@euromedheritage.net

Euromed Heritage 4

Rue d'Egmont, 15
Tel: +32 (0)2 609.55.50
Fax: +32 (0)2.511.63.11
info@euromedheritage.net
www.euromedheritage.net

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".