

INCO MED Thematic Workshop for the definition
of the Science and Technology
Euro-Mediterranean Policy within FP7 (project MED7)
“Preservation of Cultural Heritage”
16-17 June 2005, St. George’s Bay – Malta

FINAL REPORT

1. Introduction

Objectives

The objective of this report is to focus on the role of cultural heritage in the FP7 framework. It provides the rationale for the integration of cultural heritage in the programme and the detailed priorities that can be identified within the four major headings. To effect this process there is the need for a monitoring of the programme by cultural heritage experts and determine the best practice by comparative analysis and evaluation. The consequences and costs of non-management of cultural heritage and its dysfunction might result in a body without soul and the rejection of many programmes of research due to lack of concern and apathy. The loss of cultural heritage due to any cause is a disaster that humanity can ill afford and the exclusion of a specific programme on cultural heritage in FP7 is regrettable. This report proposes that ‘dialogue, democracy and debate’ will be conducted through the efforts of cultural heritage of the EuroMed.

Concepts

Past cultures and human activities have spread over vast areas transcending present day divisions and classifications making current political borders inconsequential in cultural heritage management. The protection of cultural heritage is the mutual responsibility for the common heritage sharing a stake in its maintenance and protection.

Concepts of cultural heritage change over time and affect the political, economic and scientific evolution of societies. This was recognized in the Athens 2002 conclusions preceding the FP6 programme. The continuing vision of cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean region is strengthened by the priorities of the programme research, technological development and demonstration activities of the European Community.

Cultural heritage represents the widest facets of our society including tangible, intangible, moveable and immovable heritage and its relationship to nature and the environment. It continually evolves and demands interpretation through a multidisciplinary approach.

In the context of globalization and climatic change, the attitudes to the protection of cultural heritage and local knowledge is to be seen in the wider context not of the isolated monument or site but its landscape and environment.

The cultural heritage is a cumulative effort of human activity and technology including the traditional knowledge and crafts that produced the built environment and its artifacts. The revival and maintenance of this knowledge is critical both for itself and for the protection of cultural heritage.

Considering the commitment of the International and European community to the safeguarding of cultural heritage, its prevention and resolution of conflicts, cultural heritage must be used in recognizing our past and present communities as a bridge for peace for the future by resolving ongoing and post-conflict situations.

The safeguarding of cultural heritage against natural disasters, during times of conflict and in areas of turmoil through proper documentation and preparation of risk-assessment and disaster preparedness plans in accordance with International conventions.

Cultural tourism is not only a vehicle for understanding cultural traditions but a generator for research activities, new opportunities and as an economic driver for European competitiveness in the order of Euros 335 billion per year, ensuring employment for eight million people, bringing employment through creative cultural and cottage industries to regional peripheries. It is the responsibility to protect and conserve for the benefits of future generations.

The experts who reviewed the EuroMed documents identified shortcomings including national cultural heritage inventories and technological advancements. There is a need for the strengthening of the themes identified in FP6 to build on these partnerships.

Intangible cultural heritage practices need to be understood to prevent their misinterpretation and support the economic development of an area or region. This raises the issues on the emphasis we place on intangible cultural heritage as recognized in the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding Intangible Heritage, 2003.

Development of cultural heritage assets includes the recognition of sustainability as defined in the Barcelona and Lisbon agendas. It recognizes that cultural heritage is part and parcel of our lives and therefore must be in each of the defined FP7 themes.

2. Background and state-of-the-art

Existing policies

Recalling the European commitments to international conventions, declarations, and other mechanisms on cultural heritage, there is a need to translate these obligations into concrete actions within the FP7. The Valletta Convention (1992) on the Protection of Cultural Heritage, the Barcelona

agreement (1995), the Lisbon agenda (2000) and the European Landscape Convention (2002) have reaffirmed these commitments to cultural heritage.

The ten-year anniversary of the Barcelona agreement is a milestone for the re-evaluation of the integration of cultural heritage in the Euro-Med programmes being reinforced by the European Community decision on Culture 2007-2013 programme and the London Declaration 2004 on sustainable cultural heritage research. The experts recognize the importance of TEMPUS in the building of university capacity and training.

The many UNESCO mechanisms, including the World Heritage Convention, and other related recommendations underscore the mutual responsibility and global cooperation needed to protect cultural heritage in changing societies, environments and technologies. Mention should be made of the UNESCO Forum – Universities and Heritage programme for scientific excellence, cooperation and knowledge sharing. Other bodies, including ICCROM, ICOMOS, ICOM, Union of International Architects (Heritage Chapter), European Association of Archaeologists are the supporting stakeholders in the consideration of cultural heritage and the ethics through their many charters and codes.

Other institutions, including the World Bank, UNEP, FAO, etc should be considered committed partners to the protection of cultural heritage.

Current situation

The experts noted the lack of focus on cultural heritage and management and protection policies of Euro-Med countries and draw the attention of governments to:

- place cultural heritage on the European and national agendas;
- facilitate participation of researchers in the many varied programmes;
- encourage coordinated decentralization in order to better public awareness, accessibility and inclusion;
- widen the involvement of researchers and academics in decision-making processes related to cultural heritage policies;
- the necessity to identify gaps of knowledge in cultural heritage in science, technology and historical periods;
- the importance of coordination of existing strategies, including the European Strategy Forum for Research and Infrastructures.

Networks of Excellence should be expanded and capacity built to allow the wider participation of Mediterranean countries.

In order to resolve the conflict among tourism and development, cultural heritage and sustainability, private and public stakeholders should be involved in common research and technological development to ensure integration and the building of knowledge. Cultural heritage is the laboratory of time in the human and natural landscape laboratory of place.

State of the art

The experts recognized the importance of documentation as a means for the preservation and protection of cultural heritage as a common concern for all the EuroMed countries.

Cultural landscapes provide an integrated framework for the study and protection of natural heritage, marine and coastal, urban historic landscape including sites and monuments. They integrate the intangible heritage, local and indigenous/traditional knowledge as well as a means for the participation of their communities and the public in all aspects of management.

The historic urban landscape is under constant pressures of change and needs innovative and comprehensive action. Representing the evidence of the cumulative human achievement it should be conserved and integrated in the social and economic functions of the evolving urban communities.

The understanding and protection of cultural and historic urban landscapes, archaeological sites and natural heritage assumes the monitoring, risk assessment methodologies, mitigation, regular maintenance of cultural heritage and the development of best practice guidelines.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of the built environment, artifacts and other cultural heritage items require the study of pathologies, diagnostic analysis and remedies using non-destructive technologies and reversible treatments.

Excavation, as an element of conservation, interpretation and presentation strategy, is a tool for understanding and protecting the past. It is also recognized that excavation is important as a tool of cultural heritage impact assessment of development projects and as a means for salvaging archaeological remains in rescue situations, e.g. infrastructure building and dam construction.

Information Communication Technologies are an important tool in the protection and valorization of cultural heritage and related to documentation, knowledge sharing and dissemination.

Intangible heritage is an integral part of cultural and natural heritage and is to be integrated in all aspects of heritage management and conservation.

The experts recognized the need for the establishment of regional and thematic networks, integrated specialized centers of excellence, research-driven clusters, communities of practice, and other capacity building programmes.

There is a need to acknowledge the various risks that affect cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean area. These include the impact of tourism, vandalism and the development of tourism infrastructures, natural disasters, neglect and destruction due to political turmoil and wars.

3. Expected impact of this report in the EuroMed countries

The experts considered the impact of cultural heritage in the FP7 with its integration in all nine themes given exposure and awareness of the cultural diversity in all facets of research and technological development. These can be affected by demonstration activities to be identified by the Euro-Med countries.

The impact in the four specific programmes corresponding to four major objectives corresponding to European research policy: cooperation, ideas, people, capacities.

- **Cooperation**
Encourage an awareness of a common cultural heritage of humankind through the whole range of research activities and collaborative projects between the Euro-Med countries.
- **Ideas**
Make better impact if MED7 connects directly with Euro-Med countries for “frontier research”.
- **People**
Involve researchers in policy making within national systems.
Help Governments to improve legislative systems related to cultural heritage through research infrastructures.
Skills and career development for the sustainable use of cultural heritage assets.
Encourage the exchange of doctoral students through actions including “Marie Curie”.
Training and expertise for decision makers in cultural heritage in multidisciplinary applications.
- **Capacities**
Engage all private and public sectors and stakeholders including researchers with the development of local infrastructures.
Greater return for research institutions and private industries involved in cultural heritage.
Specific activities for international cooperation in capacity building monitored by a group of cultural heritage experts.

In addition, demonstration activities will give a high level of impact and exposure to citizens’ and tourists’ experience of cultural heritage. These can include case studies demonstrating the improvement of the interpretation of sites and landscapes. This can be initiated only by adequate budgets and supported by other programmes and instruments.

4. Scientific topics and priorities

Based on the country reports presented by the experts, six domains have been identified as principal themes for EuroMed cultural heritage priorities:

Natural and cultural landscapes; Documentation; Materials; Heritage, Society and Development; Capacity building; Management.

1. Natural and cultural landscapes

1. Identification and valorization of natural sites and cultural landscapes of particular EuroMed cultures which are of global significance.
2. Risk assessment methodologies.
3. Dynamic interaction between local communities, culture and landscape.
4. Knowledge systems, sustainable maintenance and development of landscapes.
5. Use of new technologies of remote sensing, space archaeology, coring, ground penetrating radar and other new geophysical techniques for characterization and mapping.
6. ICT modelling and simulation.
7. Identification and mapping of anthropogenic and natural hazards.
8. Survey, data retrieval, excavation in the context of conservation and landscape management strategy.
9. Geo-technical assessment, restoration and the rehabilitation of the built environment.
10. Integration of traditional and scientific knowledge for sustainable management of landscapes.
11. Use of natural, historical urban and other cultural landscapes for the maintenance of biodiversity and cultural diversity.

2. Documentation

1. Conduct research to develop methodologies and technologies for the generation of national, regional, thematic and trans-regional, compatible databases, archives, inventories, national registers and atlases, following best practice guidelines and successful cases. The experts noted the excellent presentation made on CULTNAT Egypt.
2. ICT, multimedia and any other methods of information and dissemination as deemed necessary.
3. ICT/GIS based documentation and mapping of cultural heritage.

3. Materials

1. Research on diagnostic techniques for identification, including dating and imaging, of materials and pathologies of materials.
2. Research of deterioration processes and mechanisms and their effect on material cultural heritage in Mediterranean environments.
3. Experimentation for the development of protective and other conservation materials, integrating ancient and new technologies in the conservation of artefacts and the built environment.
4. Assessment of different restoration and preservation techniques following accepted professional codes and conventions.
5. Development of methodologies in the study and preservation of artefacts and built environment with special attention to the promotion of non-destructive methods.
6. Identification, recovery, evaluation and adaptation of traditional materials and technologies for sustainable development.

7. Study appropriate microclimatic and environmental conditions for the development of appropriate methods for conservation of archaeological and historical materials.

4. Heritage, society and development

1. Integration of cultural heritage in sustainable development, security and socio-economic programmes in the fields of food, health, energy, transport, ICT, environment and climate, new materials and socio-economics.
2. Promote research on eco and cultural tourism, creative traditional, rural and urban industries integrating archaeological, traditional and ICT knowledge and technologies.
3. Conduct research on the management of archaeological, urban historical, other cultural sites and natural landscape.
4. Encourage research on public participation in all aspects of cultural heritage management projects, including the use of new ICT technologies, and the active engagement/involvement of local communities in cultural heritage development activities.
5. Encourage the rehabilitation of traditional settlements including historical urban towns.
6. Promote research on the multicultural aspects of EuroMed cultural heritage to enhance mutual understanding of the common past.

5. Capacity building

Based on the major objectives from Paragraph 3, as outlined above:

1. Application of cutting-edge science and technology in socio-environment through “Science in Society” programme and the establishment of an integrated network of specialized centres of excellence.
2. Establishment of national, thematic, regional, trans-regional and international networks.
3. Curricula development, training and life-long development.

6. Management

1. Encourage research on cultural heritage management projects.
2. Mitigation strategies and activities.

5. Modalities and Instruments for participation for INCO MED countries in International Co-operation actions

Considering the four specific programmes of FP7 as outlined in paragraph 3 above:

(h) Co-operation

Within the approved themes of FP7, specific actions and priorities for Co-operation have been identified as follows:

(h) Health

- Mediterranean specific sustainable health systems: health and diet, traditional medicine, alternate medicine, hygiene.
- Traditional methods against epidemic diseases (public bathing, garbage disposal, sewage treatment)

(h) Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology

- Archaeological and traditional farming and herding/pastoral subsistence activities in rural communities and cultural landscapes
- Traditional food industries, traditional food preparation, ethnogastronomy

(c) Information and Communication Technologies

- Use of ICT in public participation and education: visualization multimedia production, web sites and Internet portals, virtual communities
- e-learning.
- Establishment of national registers, inventories, archives, atlases and other documentation methodologies.
- Application of ICT in tangible and intangible creative heritage industries
- Computer modelling and simulation of historical landscape dynamics (e.g. GIS – Stella)

(d) Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies

- Integrating new knowledge and technologies with archaeological, historical and traditional knowledge in the production of new preservation and restorations materials
- Development of non-destructive examination and assessment methods and techniques.

(e) Energy

- Integrating traditional archaeological historical knowledge with space age innovations for sustainable development

(f) Environment (including Climate Change)

- Application of environmental technologies in monitoring, protecting, safeguarding and conserving cultural heritage sites, monuments and the built environment (anthropogenic environment)
- Application of environmental technologies and knowledge paradigms in the rehabilitation of cultural landscapes
- Sustainable management of sites, monuments and landscapes
- Integration of traditional, archaeological and historical knowledge in sustainable management and development of cultural and natural marine and non-marine landscapes.
- Sustainable management and development of characteristic past and present Mediterranean landscapes, including riverine and coastal landscapes, historical towns, desert habitats, oases, pastures
- Computer modelling and simulation of the impact of climate changes on Mediterranean landscapes through an analysis of the sea level changes, hydrological parameters, ground water and vegetation using archaeological and environmental and palaeo-environmental proxies.

- Identification and assessment of cultural strategies for coping with climate change – for forecasting and mitigation efforts against adverse climate events

(g) Transport (including Aeronautics)

- Integrating traditional transport systems with new technologies in sustainable management schemes, especially in fragile environments and in the rehabilitation of urban historic centres and historic itineraries

(h) Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities

- Rehabilitation of historical urban settlements
- Rehabilitation of rural and pastoral habitats and communities
- Revival of traditional arts and crafts
- Implementation of new technologies and knowledge in the sustainability of traditional environments and settings
- Development and management of eco-cultural tourism
- Support of the use of intangible heritage in creative industries
- Assessment of cultural heritage values in social market economy

(i) Security and Space

- Application of space technologies in prospecting, monitoring, assessing and rehabilitating all natural and cultural landscapes
- Development of a management strategy for the security of sites and museums.

2. Ideas

- Reinforce excellence, dynamism, and creativity in European research on cultural heritage and to improve the standing of Europe for developing the best research by researchers from both European and partner countries.
- Collaboration among scientists from European and partner countries in joint research initiatives to advance research in frontier, competitive areas of cultural heritage.
- Develop appropriate mechanisms to support young scholars and emerging teams in the field of cultural heritage research.

3. People

- Possibility for using the best practices in training, career development, and research.
- Make use of instruments and tools to support the residence of European scholars in partner countries for developing advanced research in cultural heritage, and *vice versa*.
- Encourage Dialogue among Euro-Med and international scholars in the field and domains of cultural heritage research and research development.
- Support for training workshops, seminars, conferences and symposia in Mediterranean cultural heritage.

4. Capacities

- Support the development of local infrastructure for cultural heritage actions and research.
- Development of complementary networks of specialized Centres of Excellence in different domains of cultural heritage (natural and cultural landscapes, documentation, materials, heritage, society and development and capacity building) strengthening existing trans-Mediterranean development of high school and university curricula, textbooks, CD and DVD in cultural heritage. This will utilise synergies with programmes such as TEMPUS and UNESCO uni-twin chairs.
- Development of a network of experts and institutions in Mediterranean cultural heritage.
- Support the development across Euro-Med countries of regional research-driven clusters of universities, research centres, private sectors, NGOs and local communities.
- Establishment of a Mediterranean cultural heritage expert advisory facility for (1) setting regional and thematic priorities in cultural heritage research, (2) enhancing the development of S & T in cooperative projects and partnerships, (3) assisting in the coordination of international and national cooperation in cultural heritage investigations and applications, (4) overseeing and harmonizing regional research clusters, infrastructure development, education-related activities and thematic centres of excellence. The advisory board is to include experts in different cultural heritage fields with representation from all Euro-Med countries.

6. Increasing Awareness and Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination

Cultural heritage is an integral part of education, leisure and pleasure of Mediterranean local communities and visitors alike. Promoting cultural heritage knowledge through research, technology and demonstration activities enhances the protection of cultural heritage.

Citizen's participation

- Strengthening local awareness for the protection of cultural heritage.
- Strengthening the role of civic society in the governance of cultural heritage
- Promoting the role of people in continually shaping landscapes, cultural, natural and urban, in accordance with mechanisms as the UNESCO World Heritage Conventions, UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme, and the European Landscape Convention.
- Empowering citizens, individuals and NGOs for local action and active participation in all aspects of cultural heritage management.

- Harnessing existing European programmes and initiatives on gender and poverty-alleviation in cultural heritage activities.
- Promoting the participation of local communities in the impoverished regions in cultural heritage development projects, and the promotion of creating jobs through cultural heritage development.
- Developing programmes of cooperation and participation linking researchers, decision-makers and local stakeholders.
- Promote public awareness through municipalities, local councils and all other stakeholders.

Knowledge sharing and dissemination

- Amplify the place for cultural heritage in the “Science in Society” programme.
- Ensure and facilitate the attendance of all EuroMed countries in the launching of the FP7 programme.
- Encourage the sharing of knowledge and research through projects of varied group sizes and geographic clusters thus leading to “Communities of Practice”.
- Increase the role of schools and informal education, especially for youth, in the dissemination of knowledge related to cultural heritage.
- Improve accessibility of scientific knowledge.
- Make use of creative industries in sharing and disseminating cultural heritage knowledge.
- Encourage the establishment of “e-learning” and the establishment of virtual communities in cultural heritage domains.

Appendices:

- 1 Agenda
- 2 List of Participants
- 3 Country Reports
- 4 Presentations