



Introduction

Welcome to the fourth Newsletter of the Umayyad Project!

The purpose of this Newsletter is to provide information and updates for the Umayyad Project.

Umayyad Project is co-financed by the multilateral cross-border cooperation programme ENPI CBC MED funded by the European Union. It aims to reinforce cooperation between the EU and partner country regions located along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

The 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The Programme objective is to promote the sustainable and harmonious cooperation process at the Mediterranean Basin level by dealing with the common challenges and enhancing its endogenous potential. It finances cooperation projects as a contribution to the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of the Mediterranean region. The following 14 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine,

Portugal, Spain, Syria (participation currently suspended), Tunisia. The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French (www.enpicbcmc.eu).

The European Union is made up of 28 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.

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First Training Session in Algarve (Portugal)



The Andalusian Public Foundation 'El legado andalusí' has launched the training sessions designed for the partners of the Umayyad cultural routes project.

The aim of this session is to encourage the participation of local public officials involved in the management, dissemination and promotion of cultural routes. At the same time, it will emphasize the methods used to design the path of the Umayyads in Andalusia.

The first of these sessions took place on 19-20 May in the city of Faro (Portugal), in collaboration with the Portuguese partner, the Algarve Tourism Board.

The Umayyad route in Andalusia was developed taking into account factors such as cultural heritage, the services offering and tourism infrastructure. Coherence in the route's layout was also important. It includes capital cities already consolidated at touristic and cultural levels, and other municipalities with great potential for integration into a circuit of this type.



Training courses in Lebanon and Jordan



The following training courses designed for the partners of the Umayyad Project were held June 13-14 in Lebanon (Tripoli and Anjar), and June 16-17 in Jordan (Amman).

In Amman, the Jordanian capital, the training took place in the Jordan Museum, which brought together a healthy representation of the country's cultural sector. Among the attendees were representatives of the Jordanian Ministry of Culture as well as various cultural and tourism stakeholders from the country.

The Safadi Foundation, based in Tripoli, Lebanon, hosted the second training session in the region. During the presentation of the project, representatives of the Ministries of Tourism and Culture and mayors of several cities included in the Umayyad route attended. In parallel, the Safadi Foundation held an exhibition with the different design proposals that the Lebanese partners are preparing for the future Umayyad Museum.



Third Project Meeting in Palermo (Italy)



The Umayyad Project's third steering committee meeting took place in Palermo, Italy, from June 25-27. It lasted three days and closed with a field visit to Cefalù, one of the Sicilian cities present on the Umayyad Route.

During the first day, the partners agreed on the upcoming activities to be carried out. Among these, the Andalusian Public Foundation 'El legado andalusí', as project leader, together with the Andalusian Council of Chambers of Commerce, a partner in the project, announced the organization of a working visit to Andalusia for 80 tourism sector authorities from the partner countries. This activity aims to involve different stakeholders from the tourism sector in the management, promotion and dissemination of cultural tourism and the transfer of good practices in the realization of cultural tourism routes, all of which the 'El legado andalusí' has been doing for nearly 20 years.

Members also discussed the dates for the upcoming training courses to be held in Sicily, Egypt and Tunisia before the end of the year. Further, Dr. Rachid Chaman, a professor at the American Lebanese University and partner within the project, presented his preliminary architectural designs for the Umayyad Museum which is to be set-up in Lebanon.





On the morning of the 26th, a press conference was held at the Norman Palace, a historic ninth-century building in Palermo. One partner from each country presented their respective route, which are intended to consolidate the heritage associated with the Umayyad dynasty with other aspects that attract tourism such as gastronomy, landscapes, crafts or music.

The conference, which was attended by the press and local tourism enterprises and stakeholders, had excellent institutional support. Among the attendees were the President of the Region of Sicily, D. Rosario Crocetta, the Mayor of the City of Palermo, D. Leoluca Orlando, the Regional Advisor for Cultural Heritage and Sicilian Identity, Ms. Pina Furrari, the Regional Advisor for Tourism, Sports and Entertainment, Ms. Michela Stancheris and the Director of the UNESCO Foundation in Sicily, Prof. Aurelio D. Angelini, who stressed the need for these initiatives to address sustainable development and promote Arab heritage in the Mediterranean.

The project's kick-off meeting was held in Granada in June 2013, and the second meeting in Tunis (Tunisia) last December.

Training courses in Lebanon and Jordan

The Sicilian TV Channel Sicilia Uno covered the story of the third Umayyad Project meeting. In the following video, a series of interviews are made to Lucius Tambuzzo, President of the partner Circuito Castelli e Borghi, Juan Manuel Cid, Umayyad Project Coordinator, and other representatives of the political and cultural world of Sicilian society.

