



EU - Lebanon
Cooperation Days

**Culture &
Heritage**





2009

EU

War Free World Heritage Listed Cities

€ 432 592

World Heritage Listed (WHL) sites do have important positive impact on the image of the countries and the local economies of the regions they are located in. Nonetheless, few measures are developed to safeguard those sites from civil and/or military attacks.

Currently, dozens of armed conflicts are ongoing around the world. Alongside the loss in human lives, more and more valuable heritage sites are turned into battlefields. Historic and archaeological patrimony is being vandalised, looted, illicitly traded spoiling WHL historic city cores.

Both the city of Byblos (Lebanon) and the city of Mtskheta (Georgia) - the focus of this project - were just about to be severely affected by war operations respectively in 2006 (Lebanon) and in 2008 (Georgia). This prompted local authorities in both cities to seek enhanced protective measures. The overall purpose of this project is to have Byblos and Mtskheta classified as Heritage sites under enhanced protections from UNESCO. The specific objective of the project is to produce a Risk Preparedness Plan and to promote awareness about threats posed to cultural heritage from armed conflicts.

LT

Towards Cultural Heritage Governance - Framework for the preservation, documentation and accessibility of cultural heritage under threat

€ 400 000

Due to the absence of sound cultural governance in North Africa and the Middle East, the preservation of cultural heritage depends almost entirely on initiatives of individuals and a few cultural heritage organisations.

The key constraints that the cultural heritage institutions face and that are addressed by this project include:

1. Deficit in specialised human capacities, sound management structures
2. Scarcity of physical facilities and support to secure threatened heritage;
3. Lack of systematic coordination and exchange of expertise among actors and absence of a platform that unites 4)advocacy efforts to demand policies and legal protection;
5. Low value assigned to heritage & weak political commitment, lack of technical and financial support from local actors as well as a lack of access to and participation in heritage by the public.

The project is implemented by Heinrich Böll foundation and partners from the EuroMed region.

AG

Allocation globale - Activités Culturelles, Information et Communication

€ 413 000

Samir Kassir Award:

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right for the fulfilment of human aspirations. The uprisings in the region highlighted the peoples' aspiration to live freely and in dignity, and their quest for the full enjoyment of their human rights. The media landscape has changed beyond recognition. Social media played a crucial role during the Arab Spring giving journalists, bloggers and peaceful demonstrators the means to bypass traditional media outlets and overcome the barrier of fear by

2012

A door to multiculturalism - Arab Resource Centre for Popular Arts

€ 28 000

A Door to Multiculturalism is a project implemented by the Arab Resource Centre for Popular Arts. It aims at promoting multiculturalism and at reconciling differences across cultures.

One of the main activities of this project will be the organisation of the «Jana International Film Festival for Children and Youth», a cultural and artistic biennial event that aims at promoting exchanges between cultures through acknowledging and celebrating films made by children and youth. The project will also promote intercultural exchange between communities in Lebanon such as Lebanese, Palestinians and Iraqis. By training and engaging local youth in organising the event and selecting films to be screened, local ownership will be fostered and differences between the various cultures in Lebanon will be elaborated and worked on in a constructive way.

Moreover, the festival provides the opportunity to get a glimpse of other cultures and ways of life.

To further promote artistic exchanges, the Festival has been integrating a photo/ art gallery and mini-workshops through which youth get a hands-on experience on filmmaking, animation, pixilation, and sound.

2012

CIRQUS Cirque pour l'Unité et la Solidarité - Arcenciel

€ 27 886

Civil wars often raise walls between communities and divide people. Circus is an art based on the openness towards others. Artistic circus activities can foster dialogue among people and change the image they have of one another. The circus project of Arc en Ciel aimed at promoting exchange and multicultural dialogue among children of different communities through Circus activities. The association built up a circus tent which travelled across the whole country to promote dialogue (in Beirut, Chouf, Bekaa, North and South). 125 young Lebanese were selected to be taught acrobatics, mimicry, pantomime, juggling and much more. Moreover, more than 1000 young Lebanese from marginalised regions attended circus plays of young Lebanese trained by the association. The promotion of dialogue enhances participation of all Lebanese, regardless of their community or economic status. Circus is one of the most efficient means to bypass fears among communities.

The project was implemented by Arc en Ciel and activities were carried out during 12 months.

2012

The «Lebanese Comics Festival - A cultural EuroMed window for young comics artists» - Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario (COSV)

€ 20 800

Comics represent a dynamic and narrative form of art and are one of the most popular art forms among young people across the world. Images allow overriding linguistic barriers and can therefore be used to foster inter-cultural understanding in Lebanon. Following a 2010 project entitled «A comic competition on multicultural societies», COSV organised in 2012 workshops to introduce



comics as a technique to amateur artists in Beirut, Tripoli, Sour and Baalbeck. Young Lebanese artists improved their skills through the realisation of four workshops focused on character design, plot or story development and storyboard. Moreover, Lebanese and International artists from other Euro- Mediterranean countries met in Beirut for the «Lebanese Comics Festival» to enhance cultural exchange and to promote young artists' works.

The project was implemented by the Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario and it ran for a period of 12 months.

2012

Festival intercommunautaire au Château de Tebnine. – au Liban du sud - MADA € 26 000

After many years of war, southern Lebanon suffers from the image of an insecure area. As a result of the insecure situation in the south, several valuable heritage sites in Casa Jbeil have been neglected. The MADA project supported the promotion of the heritage value of historic sites in South Lebanon. The association organised a festival with the re-enactment of historical event, costumes design and wall painting activities. Through the valorisation of the Tebnine Castle, the organisation of sports events with young Lebanese around the Tebnine forest and through the organisation of workshops with local authorities, MADA contributed to the reanimation of the cultural heritage of the whole region.

The mobilisation of a wide audience involving youth, local authorities and the Ministry of Tourism, MADA turned cultural heritage into an effective tool to promote dialogue and mutual understanding among communities in South Lebanon.

The project was implemented by MADA and ran for a period of 6 months.

2012

Soundouk El Ferje (The Magic Box) - KHAYAL - Cooperative association for Arts and Education € 30 000

Khayal Association organised a 2-day Children's Theater platform. The event gathered artists and actors, educators, social workers and representatives from media institutions and cultural associations as well as children of all ages.

The platform hosted panels, open discussions and theatre performances for the public, establishing a privileged forum for the different stakeholders to exchange ideas and build relations across Children's Theater. The Magic Box - Soundouk El Ferje performance was the first initiative of its kind in Lebanon and the region, and it aimed at encouraging more young Lebanese artists to get creatively involved in Children's Theater. A team of Lebanese artists from the KHAYAL Association joined forces with their French colleagues from the Subito Presto collective to create the play "Le Bal des Rêves" (Ball of Dreams). The play explores the world of dreams we share that help us come together and fill the voids that new entertainment technologies have created in our social lives. The project also supported Lebanese artists' capacity to produce their own plays and provided them with networking opportunities. Through the interaction and the comparison between different practices in production methods, the projects aimed at reaching mutual understanding and consensus among participants. This open environment for cross-cultural dialogue made participants benefit both on an artistic and human level.

The project was implemented by Khayal association and ran over a period of 12 months.

2012

Fenêtre à la Participation, Porte vers la paix - Sustainable Democracy Centre € 29 000

The project sets out with the conviction that in order to foster peace in a nation people from the same or from different communities must be aware of their shared past. Only then they can try to build a common future. History gives a meaning to individual identities and to collective goals. Intergenerational exchange is crucial in building a common understanding and reconciliation. Through the construction of a labyrinth and the introduction of participatory drawing techniques, painting and design in various workshops, the Sustainable Democracy Centre will attempt to enhance collective action to represent the diversity of communities living in Lebanon. The project will also promote dialogue and the development of a collective memory through the gathering of individual testimonies. Cultural sites of Lebanon will be highlighted through visits to local monuments and celebrations to promote peaceful exchange and multicultural dialogue.

The project «Fenêtre à la Participation, Porte vers la paix» will be implemented by the Sustainable Democracy Centre and will run for a period of 12 months.

2012

Graffme2# Lebanon - Les Militants des Savoirs € 30 000

The Freedom of expression is one of the most important human rights. Since the very beginning of the Urban Arts development, graffiti has been a way for artists to «take ownership» of the streets. Walls can talk when people do not speak. The «Graffme # 2 Lebanon» project, implemented by «Les Militants des Savoirs», aims at enhancing the development of Urban Arts and at promoting multicultural dialogue in Lebanon. The association encourages the cooperation between Lebanon and France in Arts and Culture and provides emerging Lebanese artists with a network on which to build on. The wide audience, both in Lebanon and in France, will help fostering the freedom of expression. The project's main activities will consist in trainings, collective performances, multimedia and creativity workshops, debates with renowned experts in the field of urban arts and intercultural activities.

The project will be run for a period of 8 months.

2009
2012

A Heritage Trail along the Phoenician maritime routes and historic port-cities of the Mediterranean Sea - MARE NOSTRUM € 1 092 217

The Mediterranean port-cities and their correspondent archaeological sites on the Mediterranean Phoenician routes share a lack of awareness by the local population towards the value of their heritage and the importance of their preservation. Moreover, there is a lack of valorisation by the local authorities of the tangible and intangible heritage of their areas of competence. MARE NOSTRUM contributed to the promotion and awareness-raising of the heritage value of historic port cities of the Mediterranean Sea, scattered along the Phoenician maritime routes.

MARE NOSTRUM adopted a holistic approach to meet economic and social objectives, as well as high quality cultural tourism needs. This project aimed at contributing to the promotion of public initiatives and community participation in decision-making for designing Mediterranean port-city sites, promoting the rediscovery and re-shaping in a historical past-into-present overview of the local heritage. It also strengthened and addressed the actions of the local authorities to the preservation of the heritage of their areas, through shared and integrated sustainable tourism plans of new tourist itineraries.

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This project allowed 100 local guides to be trained, the design of awareness-raising and information material and the publications of a handbook containing the plan to promote tourism of quality, a database regarding the Mediterranean communities along the Phoenician routes and a pamphlet on traditional handcraft. Furthermore, 12 local outdoor exhibitions will show projects for the local traditions of handcrafts products.

The main result of Mare Nostrum is the revitalisation of the targeted areas turning them into places of life for the local populations. The project was implemented by a team of project partners - Medieval City of Rhodes in Greece; City of Tyre in Lebanon; Université Saint Joseph & MAJAL/ Academic Observatory for Construction and Reconstruction/ University of Balamand in Lebanon; Paralleli in Italy – coordinated by DIRES University of Florence in Italy.

Source: http://www.euromedheritage.net/euroshared/doc/MARE%20NOSTRUM_EN.pdf

Culture & Heritage – Several Projects

€ 3 640 000 as grant and 10 228 000 as soft loan

Promotion of the cultural heritage and urban development in Lebanon (CHUD) (€10.228.000 as soft loan and 570 000 as grant)

Implemented by: Lebanese Government

The CHUD programme (Cultural Heritage and Urban Development) is a broad intervention addressing Lebanon historical cities (Tripoli, Byblos, Baalbek, Saida and Tyre) aimed at pursuing the improvement of life standards of their population. The programme's main components are the rehabilitation of city centres and the infrastructures' improvement; the conservation and management of archaeological sites and the strengthening of institutional capacities. The entire CHUD programme is promoted in Lebanon by the World Bank over six years and a half and totalling more than 60 million USD. The Italian contribution amounts approximately to one fourth of the total budget.

Support to the development of religious tourism in Lebanon (€414 000 as grant)

Implemented by: Lebanese Government

The initiative aims at fostering the assessment and promotion of international religious tourism and including Lebanon in the international map of cultural and religious tourism flows through the elaboration of religious tourism itineraries and the valorisation of significant religious sites of the Lebanese heritage. The ultimate goal is to generate development opportunities in decentralised areas. A Cultural Religious Tourism Unit, made available by the Office of the Prime Minister, ensure the management of the activities with the support of the Italian experts. Scheduled activities include the creation of a database of the potential tourist sites, the upgrade of their standards in compliance with the international tourism market ones and the elaboration of a marketing plan for the religious tourism in Lebanon with the definition of incentives to the private sector in order to foster investments in marginalised areas.

Chamaa Castle conservation project (€700 000 as grant)

Implemented by: Lebanese Government

The initiative aims at rehabilitating the cultural heritage of the village of Chaama in order to spread conservation practices and contribute to the cultural, economic and touristic participatory

development of the region. The restoration of the castle and the creation of related tourist patterns, the awareness about preservation models and the support to local handcraft production and food processing are the strategic axis of the project. Over 2013, the castle of Chamaa, after being heavily damaged during 2006 conflict, will be returned to local communities and will start playing a crucial role in their sustainable development.

Rehabilitation of Khan el-shli in Saida (€1,500 000 as grant)

Implemented by: Lebanese Government

The Khan el-Ishli (18th Century) constitutes an indisputable historic and artistic example of the caravanserai architectonic structure. This project will complement the implementation of the renovation plan designed in the framework of the CHUD programme, complete the interior rehabilitation. Located in the historical centre of Saida, the future proposed use of the Khan el-Ishli will contribute to a better fruition of urban spaces.

Initiative for the preservation of the artistic heritage: restoration works for Roman fresco paint hosted by the Beirut National Museum* (€256 000 as grant)

Implemented by: Lebanese Government

The Beirut National Museum, managed by the General Directorate of the Antiquities, gathers an important collection of archaeological Lebanese finds, among which the main funerary room of the Tomb of Tyre, dated 2nd Century BC. The walls of the main room are painted with a fresco technique and they have been strongly damaged by physics and chemical factors. Therefore they urgently needed a complete restoration work. This project proposal provided a complete conservation works directly on the paintings and allowed them to be finally accessible to the public.

Optimisation and Strengthening of the Touristic offer of Baalbek and North Bekaa* (€200 000 as grant)

Implemented by: Direct Management

Through the participation of the Ministry of Tourism, targeted Municipalities and private companies working in tourism services sector, this initiative aimed at optimising and developing the touristic offer and potential of Baalbek and the North Bekaa. The project developed a Tourism Master Plan and conducted an action strategy aimed at bringing evidence of the rich cultural, social and religious patrimony of the region with the intent of enabling tourists to responsibly visit it and support its sustainable development.

*This project has been completed in 2012 but the Italian Cooperation and its Lebanese counterparts are currently designing further extensions to be implemented.

All at the Book Fair

\$ 100 000

The Beirut Book Fair aims at helping the francophone book market in Lebanon through supporting Lebanese francophone publishers and booksellers and promoting francophone books among the general public and in schools. It helps as well developing new ideas through debates and conferences and promotes books and reading (paper or digital).



ITALY



FRANCE



In 2012, the guest of honour in the Book Fair was the Goncourt Academy which declared its 3rd selection of the Goncourt Prize at the Fair and launched a new award, "The Orient's Choice", a literary prize awarded to students from the Middle East similar to the Goncourt des Lycéens Prize. The Fair which comprised 71 exhibitors organised 75 meetings and roundtables and gathered 55 000 visitors. It has as well enabled meetings with Francophone authors such as Zep, Franck Giroud – Bernard Pivot, Régis Debray, Patrick Deville, Mathias Enard, Annick Cojean and Pierre Assouline.

This project organised by the French Institute in Lebanon (L'Institut français du Liban) in collaboration with the Books' Importers' Association was implemented in partnership with the Lebanese francophone booksellers and editors, the francophone embassies, universities and cultural and educational establishments as well as the francophone written and audiovisual media.

"L'Institut français du Liban" invests 100 000 dollars towards the organisation of this annual fair.

Support to Lebanese cultural operators in 2013

€ 80 000

The French Embassy and the French Institute support the Lebanese cultural operators. A cultural cooperation programme is implemented, every year, depending on the objectives pursued by the partners and the relevance of the projects. It aims at supporting local actors in developing their activities and exchanges with French professionals.

In 2013, support is provided on the one hand to Lebanese festivals spread all over the country (Festivals of Baalbek, Beiteddine and Byblos; in Beirut, the spring festival – Samir Kassir Foundation, the Bi-pod festival, Storyfest in Monnot Theater, Al-Bustan festival) and to innovative cultural structures on the other hand such as the Beirut art centre, Achkal Alwan, Metropolis cinema, Liban-jazz and Kahraba group.

This programme is conducted in close collaboration with the local partners and French structures and aims at placing francophony back in a dynamic environment open to all.

This programme implemented on an annual basis receives a funding of 80 000€ for 2013.

Support to the Lebanese cinema

€ 90 000 per year

The French Institute of Lebanon supports the Lebanese cinema and the structuring of the Lebanese film industry. This includes:

- Support to training: collaborating with film schools and audio-visual sections, organising and financing a workshop to rewrite scripts in partnership with the Liban Cinema Foundation.
- Support to film production (support for projects and assistance for support mechanisms for production, especially assistance in world cinemas jointly managed by the National Centre for Cinematography and the French Institute, the Fund for French-speaking audio-visual productions from southern countries, "la Fabrique des cinémas du monde" (Industry of World Cinema) etc.) The French institute organised in September 2012 a professional encounter on production.
- Support to the distribution and promotion of Lebanese films. The French Institute organised, on the margins of the European Film Festival in 2012, a professional encounter on distribution and screening of European and Arab films in Lebanon.

- Operational support, including an annual subvention to the Metropolis art house cinema in Beirut.

This cooperation amounts to approximately 90 000 euros par year, excluding aid to production (National Centre for Cinematography) and mentoring.

Restoring the memory of Lebanese cinema

\$ 6 500

The project aims at restoring the audio-visual archives of the famous « Baalbek studio » which is one of the largest film studios in the East.

This especially includes safeguarding audio-visual archives (400 rolls of film 16 and 35 MM) and exploring, selecting, processing and digitising the reels.

This project is implemented in partnership with "UMAM, Documentation and Research", a non-governmental association one of whose objectives is to collect and preserve archives on Lebanon's recent political and social history and which acquired for this purpose the audio-visual collections of Studio Baalbek. Various French and European structures, particularly the Archives department in the National Film Centre are also involved in the project.

The programme plans to create expertise missions, to grant operating assistance and to facilitate networking between UMAM and French structures (National Archives Institute, National Film Centre).

This restoration work will be run for several years. France is providing a funding of 6 500 Dollars.

An exceptional evening will be organised in April 2013 with the screening of the restored film "The Lebanese lady of the castle".

2012 -
2015

Support to the Lebanese media

€ 190 000

France is providing various aids to the Lebanese media, particularly French-speaking ones :

- It supports Radio Liban (96.2 FM) through the French Institute and RFI by providing a part of the programming for free in addition to some equipment.
- It will start providing in 2013 programmes from France 24 to the national television Télé Liban for free ;
- It organises every year, in partnership with the French Institute, Canal France international and the UNDP, several training sessions for Lebanese journalists provided by French journalists and trainers (fact checking, code of ethics, web writing, video reports, etc.)
- It organises every year, with Skyes Centre from the Samir Kassir Foundation, and with the support of the European Union, several conferences in the presence of French journalists (in 2012, the topics included particularly handling international current events, the links between information and entertainment and the satirical handling of political information);
- It contributes to some media events organised in Lebanon. Canal France International has



particularly funded the participation of a dozen of French journalists in the forum about the role of new technologies in elections organised in July 2012 by Skyes Centre from the Samir Kassir Foundation with the support of the European delegation.

In the framework of the «FSP francophonie 2012-2015», the French Embassy and the French Institute will provide 190 000 euros for the support of the development and professionalisation of the Lebanese French-speaking media

Archaeology : In search of Tell Arqaa \$ 30 000 / year

The objective of this programme is research and training on archaeological research on the major site in North Lebanon, “the excavations of Tell Arqaa” led by the archaeologist Jean-Paul Thalmann.

This aims particularly at elaborating a chronological sequence of a continuous occupation over more than four millennia (3000 BC – 1200 AC), conducting a study of two successive villages that were burned down in the 3rd millennium and a rigorous documentation of the development pace of the Akkar plain in the early Bronze Age. In addition, a site museum is underway.

This programme is implemented in partnership with the University of Panthéon-Sorbonne Paris I and the French Institute for the Near East (IFPO). The programme has been renewed every year for the past 25 years and receives an average annual funding of 30 000 dollars.

The History of Tyre \$ 30 000 / year

The objective is to draw attention on the main tourist pole in South Lebanon, whose history remains insufficiently documented. This project aims particularly at carrying out topographical and archaeological surveys of the excavations, as well as a chronological presentation of the occupation of Tyre from the Hellenistic era to the Middle ages and documentation prior to the polling and the development of the new tourist zone.

This project is implemented in partnership with “la Maison de l’Orient et de la Méditerranée”, HISOMA laboratory, the French development agency, the French Institute for the Near East (IFPO), the French institute of Lebanon the Spanish cooperation and the Italian cooperation.

The programme is renewed annually and receives a funding of 30 000 dollars from France.

Ru’ya: Our Point of View € 60 000

The project Ru’ya (“view” in Arabic) aims to facilitate access into the labor market for the beneficiary groups (young Palestinians living in refugee camps in the Lebanese cities of Sidon and Tyre, and young migrants from different countries (Iraq, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, etc.) living in Beirut, whose rights are marginalised and limited due to their historical, social and economic situation. For this end, an association of young and novice photographers will be created in order to enter agreements with the different actors of cooperation in Lebanon and thus promoting the association of young photographers and managing and running the awareness and visibility of the programs or

cooperation projects in Lebanon in order to create jobs. The project will offer comprehensive training in photography, theoretical and practical, through the use of new technologies.

This training will also advocate for their rights to portray through photography and expose the reality in which we live inside refugee camps and migrant neighborhoods in Lebanon. It will also promote interaction between foreign communities, Palestinians and migrants, and promote social dialogue with Lebanese citizens themselves.

The project Ru’ya has been implemented by the NGO Zakira, an organisation with significant experience in teaching children and young people, especially the Palestinian refugee community. It had also have the support of the local NGO Insan, which has provide technical assistance and conduct classroom training.



2011 -
2012

SPAIN