

The Preservation and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage in the Mediterranean

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Catalogue number: QG-31-12-225-EN-N
ISBN: 978-92-895-0626-7
DOI: 10.2863/58958

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Executive Summary

- The preservation and enhancement of a shared cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean space is vital to mutual understanding between the diverse groups of people living across the region.
- Heritage protection and promotion is a fundamental basis on which intercultural dialogue can be constructed. Without this, Euro-Mediterranean societies will remain victims of what has been termed as a “clash of ignorance”.
- Local and regional authorities, as the level of elected political representatives closest to the people, can play a key role both in protecting cultural heritage and also in managing its intelligent usage.
- The value of enhanced cultural understanding has been recognised at the highest political level, with one of the three chapters of the Barcelona Declaration entitled “Partnership in social, cultural and human affairs: developing human resources, promoting understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies”. EU funding schemes were established to realise the political objectives of this Declaration.
- However, to date, the engagement of local and regional authorities in specific, externally financed schemes to foster cultural preservation and its enhancement has been piecemeal in nature; there has been no single, overarching programme to stimulate trans-national action in cultural preservation and enhancement at the local and regional level.
- There have been no specific financing mechanisms developed to address the twin demands of local and regional authority engagement and cultural preservation activities.
- The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) does not list cultural development issues, or human/social issues such as civil society development and protection as one of its 6 common project areas. Instead, cultural responsibility has passed jointly to both the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, and to the UN Alliance of Civilizations. The value added of local and regional perspectives to cultural preservation and enhancement in the Euro-Mediterranean region needs to be fully articulated and mainstreamed into these organisations’ work plans as a priority.

“If I were to start again, I would start with culture” – Jean Monnet

1. Introduction

This file note provides relevant background information for the ECOTER commission with regard to the forthcoming report on “the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in the Mediterranean”.

The significance of cultural issues in the ongoing development of relations between the nations of the Euro-Mediterranean area has long been recognised, and the promotion of activities in the cultural sphere has been increasingly regarded as a fundamental strategy to boost intercultural and international relations in the area. Programmes to foster the preservation of a shared cultural heritage in the Mediterranean area have a long history. As far back as 1994, for instance, UNESCO created a “Mediterranean programme”, with the aim of “promoting the Mediterranean as an eco-cultural space”¹. Today, culture has increasingly come to be viewed by international organisations as an essential component of sustainable development policies: projects on cultural heritage, for example, play an important role in development, notably in creating jobs in the area of cultural tourism².

However, there remains a great challenge ahead, and the cultural dimension remains a vital element of the ongoing Euro-Mediterranean integration process, in all its forms. As the Anna Lindh Foundation’s Report on Euromed Intercultural Trends 2010 noted on the basis of its extensive opinion, Euro-Mediterranean societies are victims of a “clash of ignorance”, where people living in Europe and in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean regions suffer from distorted and stereotyped perceptions of each other. One of the major findings of the report is that despite the increased interaction between societies located on both shores of the Mediterranean, there is still a high level of ignorance in terms of how they perceive each other’s values. For instance, only a quarter of respondents from the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries thought that Europeans wanted their children to be respectful of other cultures. Europeans misjudged the values of parents in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, in particular underestimating the importance of religious belief for people of the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean; respondents from southern and eastern Mediterranean countries had rather put religious beliefs as a top priority (62%). Based on an opinion

1 Vidal-Beneyto, J. & de Puymège, G. (2000), *La Méditerranée: Modernité Plurielle*, Editions de l’UNESCO, Paris.

2 Schaefer, I. (2007) “The Cultural Dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: A Critical Review of the First Decade of Intercultural Cooperation”, *History and Anthropology* 18:3, pp. 333-352; p. 338.

survey of 13 000 people from 13 countries in Europe and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region, the report provides an extensive analysis of intercultural perspectives in the region, and finds that there is much work still to be done.

A number of significant EU-financed schemes to support the promotion of cultural heritage protection in the Euro-Mediterranean space have had a dramatic impact on actions undertaken in this sector. However, EU financing is only one of a number of incentives that promote cultural preservation and enhancement. Other actors, principally UNESCO and HERIMED³, the Association for the Documentation, Preservation and Enhancement of the Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Heritage, share the aims of advancing cultural preservation in the region. However, the EU's Barcelona Process and the financial programmes which have been established to help meet the objectives of the Barcelona Declaration are unique in that they specifically seek to link cultural issues and political outcomes. The EU-financed programmes therefore go much further in support of these aims, and involve a much broader set of trans-national actors than any related funding schemes managed by other forms of international organisations.

This file note analyses the role of culture in Euro-Mediterranean relations, and the manner in which trans-national cultural actions have been supported across the Euro-Mediterranean area since the launch of the Barcelona Process in 1995 and throughout the ongoing development of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP). It highlights the core activities that have successfully developed a cultural dimension in relations between neighbours in the Euro-Mediterranean area, and assesses the local and regional dimension of these activities.

Finally, this file note sets out some core policy recommendations for taking forward activities aimed at the further preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean area, with a particular emphasis on the role that can be played by local and regional authorities in the region.

³ <http://www.herimed.org/>

2. Cultural Heritage as a Fundamental Element of the Barcelona Process and the Union for the Mediterranean

Culture has long been recognised as an essential element of mutual understanding between peoples and is necessary for defining mutual perceptions in the Mediterranean region. For this reason, actions in the cultural sphere have become priority areas for delivering many of the political goals articulated in international agreements relating to the Euro-Mediterranean space. Through cultural images, references and rhetoric, the Barcelona Process aimed to make the Mediterranean a vital space of comprehension and dialogue.⁴

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP), launched by an inter-ministerial agreement between the then 15 EU Member States and 11 southern Mediterranean states, along with the Palestinian Authority, set out a framework for a new chapter in multilateral relations between the EU and its southern neighbours. Established as a regional cooperation mechanism, the EMP, also known as the Barcelona Process, has since 1995 sought to strengthen ties between all of these countries through enhanced and regularised political dialogue, the development of economic and financial cooperation and increased social partnership between all participants.

From the outset of the EMP process, culture was prioritised as an area which could deliver tangible results that would help meet the aims of this new integration process. The value of enhanced cultural understanding in this new framework for international cooperation was recognised at the highest political level, with one of the three chapters of the Barcelona Declaration entitled “Partnership in social, cultural and human affairs: developing human resources, promoting understanding between cultures and exchanges between civil societies”. Increasing cultural awareness in the Euro-Mediterranean region therefore remains a key tool through which societies can develop increased understanding and empathy for their neighbours.

The Barcelona Declaration states at the beginning of its third chapter on partnership in social, cultural and human affairs:

“The participants recognise that traditions of culture and civilisation throughout the Mediterranean region, dialogue between these cultures and the exchanges at human, scientific and technological

⁴ Schaefer, I. (2007) “The Cultural Dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: A Critical Review of the First Decade of Intercultural Cooperation”, *History and Anthropology* 18:3, pp. 333-352; p. 336.

level are an essential factor in bringing their peoples closer, promoting understanding between them and improving their perception of each other”.

The general aim of this strand of the EMP is to develop human resources, increase knowledge of and promote understanding between cultures, whilst at the same time encouraging rapprochement between the peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean area through exchanges and the development of free and flourishing civil societies.

The strategic objectives which this particular chapter of the Barcelona Declaration sets out are based on the combination of a recognition of diverse cultural traditions and an appreciation of shared cultural roots throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region. The notion of intercultural dialogue is the anchor of the approach that is central to this third chapter of the EMP.

Culture was also prioritised in 2003 by the High-Level Advisory Group on Dialogue between Peoples and Cultures as a key concern in Euro-Mediterranean relations:

“For the peoples of the north and south of the Mediterranean, the immediate concern is to tackle uncertainties and international change no longer separately but together, while respecting their differences. The long-term concern is to develop not just the perception but also the feeling of a shared destiny. The dialogue between people and cultures must therefore play a decisive role in creating a Euro-Mediterranean area which ‘holds together and makes sense’. To this end the dialogue must go much further than the traditional mechanisms of international and regional cooperation and assistance. It must also be cemented by mutual awareness and understanding, not only among States and institutions but also, and most importantly, among the societies and people living within this common area”⁵.

The Union for the Mediterranean and its Cultural Dimension – 2008

In May 2008, in the context of the launching of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), for only the third time in the history of the Barcelona Process, all the Ministers of Culture from the Euro-Mediterranean countries held a summit in Athens, during the “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue”. This meeting was

⁵ High-Level Advisory Group of the European Commission (2003), *The Dialogue Between the Peoples and the Cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean Space*, Euromed Report no. 68, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

significant, as it set a new strategy for cultural policy in the Euro-Mediterranean space. The Culture ministers asked a group of experts to devise such a policy, which would emphasise further their shared vision of culture as a strategic factor for political, economic and social development in the region. The policy was to focus on two main dimensions: the dialogue between cultures and cooperation on cultural policy.

Two months after the Athens ministerial conference the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership became the Union for the Mediterranean, and was simultaneously extended to a further set of countries.

The UfM has a permanent secretariat in Barcelona, run by a secretary-general and 6 deputy secretaries-general, each responsible for the development of 6 common project areas:

- De-pollution of the Mediterranean
- Maritime and land highways
- Civil protection
- Alternative energies
- Higher education and research
- Company development

None of these areas touches on cultural development issues, or human/social issues such as civil society development and protection. People active in the sphere of cultural preservation and enhancement in the Euro-Mediterranean area therefore regard the transition from the EMP to the UfM as something of a setback for their own cause, and are concerned to ensure that culture receives the priority attention it deserves as the UfM progresses⁶. Instead, cultural responsibility was passed jointly to both the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, and to the UN Alliance of Civilizations (see below) by the conclusions of the Paris Summit in 2008.

Meeting the objectives of the Barcelona Declaration in the cultural sphere – EU funding programmes

The cultural elements of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership were substantiated by a suite of European funding programmes for the region, to encourage and facilitate regional cooperation in the cultural sphere between the EU and the Mediterranean partner countries, and ultimately, to meet the aims of the Barcelona Declaration.

6 Ventura, G. (2009) “The Euro-Mediterranean Cultural Strategy: A Path for Civil Society”, publications, the European Institute of the Mediterranean

These include:

- Euromed Heritage
- Euromed Audiovisual
- Euromed Youth

The cultural dimension of each of these schemes is worth considering individually.

Euromed Heritage

Euromed Heritage is an EU-funded programme that contributes to mutual understanding and dialogue between cultures across the Mediterranean region by sustaining cultural heritage.

Euromed Heritage programmes are of particular relevance for the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in the Mediterranean space, as they involve broad sets of actors operating in the sphere of cultural protection and promotion in the Mediterranean area. Euromed Heritage programmes themselves place particular emphasis on skills development and training.

All the projects financed under the Euromed Heritage programmes bring together a wide set of relevant actors operating in the cultural realm, including local and regional authorities, though these are not in the majority. A core aim of these programmes is to create networks of actors with skills in cultural protection and enhancement, and to share best practice and expertise, whilst at the same time meeting the primary objectives of their funding projects. Some of the main types of actors active in Euromed Heritage schemes include public agencies, specialised institutes, associations or foundations and international organisations.

The first Euromed Heritage programme, Euromed Heritage I, ran from 1998 to 2004. Euromed Heritage II, which operated from 2002 to 2007, was focused primarily on increasing the capacity within Mediterranean countries for managing and developing their cultural heritage, through the promotion of knowledge, the development of human resource capacity and assisting the integrated management of heritage. The principal goal of the Euromed Heritage III programme, which ran from 2004 to 2008, was to increase Mediterranean countries' capacities to manage and develop their cultural heritage, with a special focus on intangible heritage, such as oral histories and traditions.

The fourth programme, Euromed Heritage IV is ongoing, and will run from 2008 to 2012. This programme is now embedded in the European

Neighbourhood Policy, and aims to enhance and encourage ownership of cultural heritage in the Mediterranean region, through easier access to education and knowledge on cultural heritage. It offers the selected projects a framework for the exchange of experience, channels for disseminating best practices, as well as new perspectives for the development of the cultural institutional environment at national and regional levels. The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) has now replaced the geographical and thematic programmes such as MEDA and TACIS which previously supported projects in the area of cultural preservation.

Euromed Heritage IV⁷

The Euromed Heritage IV programme, which is currently operational, is to finance 12 projects over its life cycle. The majority of project partners are from civil society organisations, universities and national government ministries. However, local and regional authorities are involved in the following project:

Mare Nostrum

This project focuses on the development of a heritage trail along the Phoenician maritime routes and historic port-cities of the Mediterranean Sea. The project will contribute to public awareness-raising of the preservation and promotion of Mediterranean port-city sites. It will also trace specific educational paths along the historical role of the cities involved, and strengthen and address the actions undertaken by local and regional governments in the preservation of the tangible and intangible heritage of their areas, through shared and integrated sustainable tourism plans.

The partners come from six countries in the Euro-Mediterranean area and include the Medieval City of Rhodes in Greece and Tyre municipality in Lebanon.

This project will run until 2012 and has a funding level of €1 365 272.

Euromed Audiovisual

The Euromed Audiovisual programme, now in its third iteration, was first launched in 2000, with the aim of developing the audiovisual sector (radio, television and cinema) in the Mediterranean partner countries, in order to foster a common cultural identity for the Euro-Mediterranean area through collective action with the audiovisual heritage of the area. This programme ran with a

⁷ <http://www.euromedheritage.net/index.cfm?menuID=13>

budget of €5 million, and has primarily supported the interaction of professionals working in the audiovisual sector in the Euro-Med countries, allowing them to create their own networks and exchange experience in the audiovisual sector.

The first phase of the Euromed Audiovisual programme ran from 2000 to 2005, with a budget of €18 million. This programme funded 6 projects in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

The second phase of Euromed Audiovisual was launched in 2006, and ran for three years, until 2009. The emphasis of this funding round was on structures and sustained development; the projects financed by Euromed Audiovisual II focused on the training and upskilling of audiovisual professionals, and in particular, to reinforce the capacity of the Southern Mediterranean region's public authorities to improve the organisation of the audiovisual sector. With a budget of €15 million over three years, the programme supported 12 projects. These included opportunities for training, networking, mentoring by established industry figures, skills and knowledge transfer as well as the exchange of ideas and best practice.

Now in its third phase, the Euromed Audiovisual III programme, which will run from 2011 to 2013, with a budget of €1 million, aims to enhance the sustainable transfer of knowledge and best practices through a wide set of training programmes, capacity building of both professionals and national authorities, and networking activities.

In addition, and in cooperation with EU funding schemes in the audiovisual sector, a new UNESCO project launched in April 2011 invites actors from 4 of the EMP partner countries (Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Tunisia) to apply for technical assistance, with a view to strengthening the system of governance for culture, that is, the establishment of legal, regulatory and/or institutional frameworks for the governance of cultural activities. Equally, this technical assistance could also help to introduce policies that address the role of culture in social and economic development, particularly through the cultural industries. This funding programme is therefore open to the involvement of local and regional actors, and aims to strengthen and improve the role played by local and regional actors in the EMP space in both facilitating and regulating the audiovisual sector.

*Euromed Youth*⁸

The Euromed Youth programmes are regarded as one of the most successful programmes launched under the EMP cultural strand. This programme promotes the mobility of young people and understanding between peoples through three types of actions:

- Euromed Youth Exchanges – which bring together groups of young people from at least four different countries for two to three weeks
- Euromed Youth Voluntary Service – supports transnational voluntary activity for the benefit of a particular community for a period of two to twelve months
- Euromed Youth Training and Networking – supports the development of youth organisations and civil society

The first iteration of this scheme, the Euromed Youth Action Programme I, was adopted at the end of 1998, and was set up with the understanding that “youth exchanges should be the means to prepare future generations for a closer cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean partners” (Barcelona Declaration, 1995). The first phase of the programme was focused on supporting the mobility of young people, and non-formal educational activities for young people through youth exchanges, voluntary services and support measures⁹.

The Euro-Med Youth programme has advanced in three phases. The first phase ran from 1999 to 2011 and provided a total budget of €9.7 million. The second phase of the programme ran from 2002 to 2004, and the third phase ran from 2005 to 2008. Within the framework of the Euro-Med Youth programme, there are several core institutions which support the aims of the programme. These include the SALTO Youth Euro-Med Resource Centre, the Council of Europe, the Anna Lindh Mediterranean Foundation for the dialogue between Cultures (see below), the European Youth Forum, the Euro-Med Youth Platform and the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament.

Evaluating the Euromed youth schemes, Demicheli and Boaria find that the cooperation projects which these programmes have facilitated, are a significant space where cultural differences and in particular, notions of active citizenship amongst young people, can be confronted. These opportunities allow young people to develop new perspectives about their neighbours in the Euromed area, and to understand better their cultural differences – and similarities.

⁸ <http://www.euromedyouth.net/>

⁹ Pace, M. (2005) “EMP Cultural Initiatives: What Political Relevance?” In: Youngs, R. and Fernández, H. A. (eds) *The Barcelona Process Revisited*, Madrid: FRIDE and *Real Instituto Elcano*.

As the authors of this evaluation note in their review:

“The impact of Youth Participation on Euromed is visible in the development of new international projects with a strong influence at the local and national level. Young people can develop new tools and competencies in order to be more aware of their role in society, but also to be prepared to take active part in it. This larger perspective supports them to better understand the complex political and social situation in the Mediterranean area.

Young people have the possibility, in this experience, to go beyond the political stereotypes and the media information about other countries and to experience active exchange and debate on such topics. In Euromed, young people have the possibility to be actors in this specific political arena and to implement their competencies¹⁰.”

Whilst Euromed youth schemes have been successful in developing youth engagement in the political and cultural dimensions of the EuroMed process, other projects have also had an impact in this area. The following project is one such example:

Project – Water and Cultures in Dialogue - Youth Water Forum 2008¹¹

Over one week in May 2008, 69 young people from 30 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership met in Turin to take part in the Youth Water Forum, an initiative promoted by the Istituto Paralleli and the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures.

The forum aimed to bring together young people from the Euro-Mediterranean region who are active in the area of water management, in order to build networks, exchange ideas and promote new collective ideas. The project as a whole had broad-ranging socio-political and intercultural implications. It allowed the young people involved to develop a better understanding of each other and their different cultural approaches to water management issues.

Working together, the participants took part in three workshops and meetings under the guidance of international experts and local training officials.

10 Demicheli, F. And Boaria, M. (2009) “Impact of Youth Participation on Euromed”. In Coyote, Youth Partnership Issue 14, March 2009, p. 9.

11 See <http://medgov.net/piemonte/links/watercultures-dialogue-%E2%80%93-youth-water-forum>

Together, the group developed the following outputs:

- 1) A creative map of Turin's cultural heritage which follows the route of the city's water courses
- 2) Collective multimedia performances and exhibitions, drawing on the different experiences of the participants
- 3) Drafting of proposals on water management and conservation and climate protection.

Net value added of these EU-funded programmes in the cultural sphere

Overall, these EU-funded programmes in the cultural sphere have helped to foster new patterns of interaction and engagement between actors involved in various dimensions of cultural heritage preservation and enhancement across the Euro-Mediterranean area. One of the key factors contributing to this is the requirement that cultural actions undertaken within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership must involve the participation of **at least** two actors from the “north”, that is, the Member States of the European Union, and **at least** two actors from the “south”, that is, the partner countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region. This condition aims to facilitate and improve the networking of cultural actors both across the Mediterranean space as well as across cultural sectors, such as cultural heritage or the media, and such like.

Furthermore, these funding mechanisms which support the cultural objectives of the Barcelona Process operate on the basis of “decentralised cooperation”. This states the desire to integrate civil society actors rather than just State officials into cultural cooperation partnership arrangements.

Further action which underpins the “third chapter” objectives of the Barcelona Declaration

In addition to the EU regional programmes which were set up within the framework of the third chapter of the Barcelona Process, there are additional strands of activity in the region which bring together EU and Mediterranean region actors in a close cultural dialogue. These are:

1. The cultural activities of the Delegations of the European Commission in the countries participating in the Euro-Med Partnership, which vary from one location to another but share similar objectives. These are limited in scope as they tend to be restricted to cultural actors based in individual countries and so are not discussed further here.
2. The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures, which was launched in 2005.

3. Civil society actions

The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation

At the 2002 Valencia ministerial meeting, the principle of creating a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote a dialogue between cultures and civilisations was agreed. Alexandria was chosen as the appropriate base for this organisation.

A High-Level Advisory Group, established in 2003, was given the task of bringing forward recommendations for a dialogue between the peoples and cultures of the Mediterranean. Whilst not a direct element of the Barcelona Process itself, the report which the High-Level Advisory Group subsequently produced in 2003 provided a new intellectual foundation for cultural partnership between the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area¹². This report was of particular relevance for defining the parameters of the work of the new Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, which, in 2004, was launched as the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures. The report of the High-Level Advisory Group helped to establish the terms of the debate and objectives of the dialogue between these societies. It stated that the objective of dialogue between the EU Member States and the countries to the south and east of the Mediterranean should be “to share with all the ambition of constructing a common civilization”¹³.

The development of human resources, particularly youth as the main target group, is of key importance within the Anna Lindh Foundation’s objectives. While identifying youth as a main target group and defending an understanding of culture that includes ‘all aspects of human life’, the foundation defines six major fields of actions, namely ‘education, science, culture and communication, human rights, sustainable development, and women empowerment’. The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the dialogue between Cultures can be considered as the biggest success of both the EU and the EMP in the field of dialogue between cultures, and it is the first common institution of the EMP which is financed by all the partner countries and the Commission¹⁴.

From the start, the foundation has promoted and partnered initiatives in most social and cultural fields, including facilitating capacity-building and training seminars, promoting cultural and art festivals and providing support for literary

¹² Schaefer, I. (2007) “The Cultural Dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: A Critical Review of the First Decade of Intercultural Cooperation”, *History and Anthropology* 18:3, pp. 333-352; p. 342.

¹³ High-Level Advisory Group of the European Commission (2003), *The Dialogue Between the Peoples and the Cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean Space*, Euromed Report no. 68, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

¹⁴ Pace, M. (2005) “EMP Cultural Initiatives: What Political Relevance?” In: Youngs, R. and Fernández, H. A (eds) *The Barcelona Process Revisited*, Madrid: FRIDE and Real Instituto Elcano.

translation, awards and public debates. To carry out its work, the Anna Lindh Foundation operates in all countries through its network of civil society agents, 43 national networks of organisations dedicated to the dialogue between cultures (including NGOs, universities, associations, non-profit foundations and private enterprises), and in association with regional and international institutions.

While the role of the foundation does not include the funding of specific projects or events, but is instead limited to the coordination of activities of national networks, it must be noted that many of these national networks of the 35 member states are headed, or heavily influenced by, national ministries, usually the foreign ministry or the ministry of culture and education. It has been suggested that this points somewhat towards a general trend of politicising culture, or, alternatively, the 'overculturisation of Euro-Mediterranean relations'¹⁵. With it, government interests and hegemonic visions of 'culture', 'cultures', and their representatives, are likely to enter the EMP's intercultural dialogue through the back door.

Civil society actions

Since the creation of the EMP, the Euro-Mediterranean foreign ministers' summits have been accompanied by Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forums. Whilst continuing to provide a cultural and socio-political complement to the formal debates, these forums have evolved to become new spaces for political dialogue in their own right. Indeed, the active participation of civil society actors from the Euro-Mediterranean region in these debates has been supported further through the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Non-Governmental Platform.

The Euromed Non-Governmental Platform involves representatives from environmental groupings, trade unions, human rights, development, transparency, culture, women and youth. The platform was established in February 2003 as an inclusive group of active civil society networks and organisations, independent of public authorities, with the aim of strengthening the role of civil society in the Euro-Med Partnership and establishing a permanent interface between actors from Euro-Med civil society and public authorities.

¹⁵ Melasuo, T. (2002) 'Cultural Relations and Cooperation in the Mediterranean', in Hult, Bo & Engman, Mats & Davidson, Elisabeth (eds.), "Euro-Mediterranean Security and the Barcelona Process", Strategic Yearbook 2003, *Institutionen för Säkerhet och Strategi, Försvarshögskolan*, Stockholm, 2003.

3. Other Actors Relevant to the Cultural Dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean Area

UN Alliance of Civilizations

The UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) was founded on the basis of a proposal put forward in 2005 by the Spanish President and the Turkish Prime Minister. UNAOC aims to develop an agenda for the human dimension of peace and development, and to build bridges within and amongst societies, promote dialogue and understanding, as well as forging the collective political will to address the world's imbalances. Through a network of partnerships, the UNAOC supports the development of projects that promote understanding and reconciliation among cultures globally, and in particular, between “Muslim” and “Western” societies. The UNAOC targets projects in four thematic areas: youth, media, education and migration. Whilst local and regional authorities are certainly involved in the thematic issue areas of these programmes, they are not the principal target audience.

For this new collective alliance, the Mediterranean region is a key priority. The UNAOC's Regional Strategy on Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation for the Mediterranean was adopted in Malta in November 2010. This sets the framework for enhanced regional cooperation in the field of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. This strategy is based on the understanding that good governance of cultural diversity is the “fourth pillar” of sustainable development, and is therefore an indispensable complementary dimension to the Millennium Development Goals.

The first Action Plan for a period of four years (2011–2015) will aim at making progress in the ten interdependent priority domains of action and synergies identified below:

- a. Respect for and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, social cohesion, citizenship and participation;
- b. Promotion of gender equality, equal enjoyment of human rights and equal opportunities for women and men;
- c. Promotion of partnerships with governments, multilateral institutions, philanthropic and other foundations and the private sector

in the four fields of action of the Alliance, particularly regarding education and culture;

d. Developing cross-cultural education as well as learning and teaching intercultural skills and competences;

e. Expansion of international exchanges mainly among youth to deepen knowledge, understanding and tolerance among peoples and societies;

f. Encourage efforts made by non-State actors in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue as a tool to promote tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity and fight against extremism and radicalisation;

g. Promotion of independence of the press, media literacy and respect for plurality of views and fundamental rights;

h. Investing in cultural diplomacy through translations, arts and entertainment programmes to deepen mutual understanding and challenge stereotypes;

i. Promotion of city-to-city cooperation or city diplomacy in the Mediterranean region;

j. Promotion of sports diplomacy

4. The Role of Local and Regional Authorities in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Local and regional authorities play a significant role in the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean space. As the level of governmental authority with primary responsibility for the protection of tangible heritage, local and regional actors have a strong understanding of cultural protection. Equally, their responsibility for social welfare and for educational issues has also led local and regional authorities to develop a sophisticated understanding of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage in their own localities, and to develop a toolkit for managing and protecting this heritage.

However, local and regional authorities are under constant pressure due to financing models and the social and economic realities of the day. There are certainly a number of interesting schemes for cultural protection and indeed enhancement at the local level which could be rolled out in other authorities, yet awareness of these programmes does not always reach target audiences. Similarly, stretches on personnel and lack of skills and expertise may mean that cultural heritage does not receive the attention that it merits within the broad scope of local and regional governance in many countries. Organising festivals, cultural events and educational programmes requires resources, which many local and regional authorities simply do not have at their disposal. Cultural heritage tourism may deliver long-term benefits, but in the short term, capacity is lacking in many instances to develop the necessary infrastructure to maximise its potential in many areas. It is for this reason that the impact of externally funded programmes, which deliver capital and expertise, skills and knowledge, is so vital in the Euro-Mediterranean space.

Finally, as noted above in relation to youth programmes in the Euro-Mediterranean area, there is a wide set of shared cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean space, yet awareness of the extent to which this cultural heritage is common to all states in the Euro-Mediterranean area is not widespread. With their responsibility for education programmes, local and regional authorities are the level of government best suited to developing initiatives which can foster intercultural learning and understanding through enhanced awareness of the commonality of cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean space. It is only by increasing understanding of shared traditions, cultural practices and history that a sense of togetherness rather than a sense of difference can be developed, and

this will have significant long-term consequences for social interaction in the region.

Local and regional authorities are both actors and policy-makers

They are likely to be involved primarily in the preservation of locally significant monuments or collections; yet at the same time they provide the policy framework for exploiting these artefacts for commercial usage, notably in the realm of tourism, and for promoting and sustaining cultural projects which preserve non-tangible cultural heritage in the area. Local and regional authorities are therefore both actors in their own right in the sphere of cultural preservation and enhancement, as well as policy-makers. This is evidenced by the manner in which they have been involved to date in EU-funded schemes in the cultural sector. Some of these are detailed below and highlight the roles played by local and regional authorities. They can be interpreted as examples of good practice in cultural preservation and offer ideas as to how projects to develop cultural heritage protection and enhancement schemes can be taken forward. However, it must be noted that the role played by local and regional authorities in cultural preservation and enhancement projects in the Euro-Mediterranean area is not systematic. They are involved in EU-funded schemes alongside sets of other actors, but there are no programmes which target local and regional authorities specifically. Their impact is therefore ad hoc.

The “EXPO 2000” project – City of Hildesheim, Germany

Under Euromed Heritage I, the City of Hildesheim in Germany, in partnership with 18 other EU and Mediterranean partner countries, led a project entitled “EXPO 2000”. This provided support for a travelling exhibition about the safeguarding and conservation of heritage right across the Mediterranean region. All Mediterranean countries were represented at this exhibition, through panel displays and multi-media presentations. The exhibition was well visited in Germany, and subsequently moved to Morocco, Algeria, Cyprus, Turkey and Tunisia. This project was continued under a separate project on “saving cultural heritage”, which developed further the ideas presented at the World Expo in 2000.

“Les Fêtes du Soleil” project – Italian municipality of Siena

The Italian municipality of Siena acted as lead partner on a project financed under the Euromed Heritage I programme entitled “*Les Fêtes du Soleil*”. This facilitated the exchange of experience between a number of municipal authorities on the organisation and promotion of festivals in the Mediterranean region. Euromed Heritage was also found to be of value to local and regional

authorities involved in this project, because the projects allowed local and regional authorities to gain valuable experience of managing international projects.

The “RehabiMed” project

Financed under Euromed Heritage II, the RehabiMed project aimed to ‘stimulate awareness and to safeguard the traditional architectural heritage of the Mediterranean basin in order to improve living conditions and to increase the management capacity of the regional and local authorities’.

RehabiMed also set out to multiply expertise on the rehabilitation of cultural heritage artefacts, along with expertise on four further aspects of cultural preservation in the EuroMed area: the urban landscape, craftsmen, lasting tourism and social action. Seminars and experiments were established by this project as a means of facilitating the exchange of know-how across these areas. Politicians and administrators from local, regional and national governments were amongst the target audience of this project, given their principal role in determining the policy framework that will promote and utilise rehabilitation across these four areas.

The “Patrimoines Partagés” project

Local authorities were involved in the “*Patrimoines Partagés*” project, also funded under the Euromed Heritage II scheme, the objective of which was to develop a shared knowledge and understanding of the 19th and 20th century urban architectural heritage of the Mediterranean.

For *Patrimoines Partagés*, the project activities in Sfax, Tunisia were put to use in the development of the plan for the city and planning guidelines. The municipal authorities, along with the *Association de la Sauvegarde de Medina*, worked cooperatively to develop a GIS inventory of historic buildings. The DELTA project aimed at developing so-called “territorial cultural systems”, that is, linking together national level agencies responsible for local development and culture, and local organisations for balanced growth in the sector, combining increased competitiveness with social cohesion. Overall, the project experimented with developing a territorial (regional) approach to the linking of heritage conservation and economic development. The project involved 10 partners from 9 EU and Mediterranean region countries. It linked together national authorities, local government, civil society, the private sector and heritage experts in a strong example of multi-level governance in the sector. Through its inter-sectoral, integrative approach to regional development, the

project delivered an important contribution to highlighting the public value of heritage.

5. Cultural Heritage and Youth

In the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region, youth engagement in cultural heritage protection is seen as vitally important. Firstly, in countries of the Southern Mediterranean, young people constitute the majority. Secondly, young people are tomorrow's elite and it is they who will be able to bring new political visions and strategies to fruition. Thirdly, young people are the base for promoting any kind of political development towards democratic reform.

Youth participation in Euro-Mediterranean integration initiatives are an important factor in political, social and cultural development. Young people from both sides of the Mediterranean will be the leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow. The Euromed Youth programme to support the third pillar aims of the EMP is the only one which addresses the needs of a specific section of the population, rather than the needs of a sector.

There is a lot to be gained from further emphasising the role of youth participation in cultural programmes within the Euro-Mediterranean area. In addition to the demographic context highlighted above, the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage is a long-term process which can only be fully promoted if skills and knowledge are transferred across generations. In many instances, respect for and awareness of cultural heritage must be learned. Further to this, the idea of a shared cultural heritage across the Euro-Mediterranean space is also not always an instinctive notion, but can be taught, learned and understood by young people who have engaged in cultural heritage programmes. It is for this reason that sustained efforts must be made to strengthen young people's awareness and understanding of cultural heritage in the Mediterranean and to learn to take ownership of this heritage.

There are some important challenges involved in engaging young people in Euromed initiatives. Not only may young people not be fully aware of their own potential, but they may also face difficulties in communication. Further, contemporary societies tend to push citizens to act more individually than collectively and the main victims of this vision are the younger generations; experts in youth participation therefore suggest that young people should be "trained" to raise their awareness about the importance of cooperating with others in a responsible manner, promoting diversity and intercultural dialogue. Finally, young people run the risk of being considered more as "passive actors" rather than active elements of society¹⁶. These are all concerns that local and regional initiatives have helped to address.

16 Demicheli, F. And Boaria, M. (2009) "Impact of Youth Participation on Euromed". In Coyote, Youth Partnership Issue 14, March 2009, pp. 7-9.

The cultural environment influences youth participation. Each action promoting youth participation, of whatever nature, should consider the different cultural aspects and should aim to promote a “setting” where diversity is a value and where the needs and wishes of young people are a core consideration.

Youth participation is not easy in some Euromed countries but young people have an important role within civil society organisations and within associations and NGOs. NGOs and associations provide young people with spaces for socialisation and culture rather than one for promoting change. These organisations are the social environment in which young people can start their experimentation of active participation through local initiatives, projects and such like.

In the Euromed area, youth participation is regarded as vitally necessary for reforms, and is considered an ongoing process that is increasingly absorbing civil society and government leaders alike. Young people are the basis for promoting any kind of political development aimed at democratic reform. This is backed up by statistics which show that young people themselves, regardless of their experience of participation, believe strongly that they hold potential as actors in any reform process, and are convinced that they can make a real change¹⁷. This is a fundamental issue which should illustrate further why it is so important that youth programmes remain at the heart of the Euromed cultural agenda.

Project example: “Cultural participation for heritage regeneration”

Cultural learning can begin from an early age. This EU-funded programme, organised by the Delegation of the European Union to Syria along with the French national government¹⁸ and the Syrian Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education, focuses on bringing cultural activities to new neighbourhoods, and to encourage residents’ participation in the regeneration process of their heritage.

One strand of this project is to organise an exhibition of children’s works from three public schools in historical neighbourhoods of Damascus. The exhibition highlights the winning entries from a competition “Bridging the gap: cultural heritage and educational resources”, which asked citizens to devise new educational resources and tools to raise awareness of local cultural heritage amongst the 10-14 year-old age group.

17 Mouawad, J. (2007) “Young people as Actors of Political Reform. The case of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon”, Euromesco

18 <http://www.ifporient.org/>

6. Cultural Heritage as a Means of Promoting Tourism

Cultural tourism is significantly more environmentally friendly than traditional mass tourism and can play an important role in the economy of the countries and regions involved in the project.

Although cultural preservation and enhancement does not feature in the administrative framework of the UfM's structures, there have been moves at a political level to promote cultural tourism in the Euro-Mediterranean space. At a first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, held in Fez in Morocco in April 2008, ministers from the EU and Mediterranean partner countries agreed to implement cooperative actions which could promote sustainable tourism. However, little progress has yet been made in this regard.

The tourist potential of cultural heritage has, however, been recognised and supported through a number of EU programmes. In addition to those projects financed by the EU under the Euromed Heritage programmes, other EU-financed schemes which have been implemented in the Euro-Mediterranean area have had a considerable impact on the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, and have involved both the development of skills training programmes, the exchange of best practice between relevant actors in the sector, including local and regional authorities. Interesting projects in the sphere of cultural protection and tourism have been financed by the EU's MED-PACT programme.

MED-PACT is an EU funded programme that aimed to create partnerships between local authorities in the Mediterranean area. With a budget of €5 million, the programme ran for 3 years from 2006-2009. It was established in an effort to meet one of the key aims of the Barcelona Process – to bring closer the Mediterranean people and develop better understanding between them. The programme aimed also to promote good governance and better management of the environment through the projects financed under this scheme.

A relevant example of a successful MED-PACT project is highlighted in detail below.

The ARCHIMEDES project (Actions to Regenerate Cities and Help Innovative Mediterranean Economic Development Enhancing Sustainability)

The ARCHIMEDES project ran for 2 years, from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008, and had a total overall budget of €34 177, of which the EU contributed 79%, or €80 000 through the MED-PACT programme. This co-financing mechanism was established within the framework of the Barcelona Process, which aims to “transform the Mediterranean into a common space of peace, stability and prosperity through the reinforcement of political and security dialogue, an economic and financial partnership and a social, cultural and human partnership”.

The ARCHIMEDES project focused on the key areas of networking between local and regional authorities as well as civil society actors, and transferring know-how between individuals and organisations facing similar challenges. The ARCHIMEDES project also allowed participants to develop pilot projects in the field.

The areas covered by the ARCHIMEDES project were as follows:

- Strategic planning
- Regeneration of an important district of the city
- Historical buildings rehabilitation
- Cultural heritage valorisation
- Economic animation
- Tourism potential exploitation

The cities involved in the ARCHIMEDES project were:

- EU Partners
 - Venice (Italy)
 - Genoa (Italy)
 - Bordeaux (France)
- Neighbourhood country partners
 - Istanbul (Turkey)
 - Beirut (Lebanon)
 - El Mina (Lebanon)
 - Oran (Algeria)

The cities involved in the project built upon a range of existing ties between local and regional and actors in the EU and in the Neighbourhood area. However, the principal objective of collaboration in this project was that all

these cities faced common challenges and sought solutions to shared objectives. The key challenges included the regeneration of significant cultural districts of the city, primarily sites of historical importance. This would include the restoration of historical buildings, the need to generate economic investment in these restored areas, and assistance in maximising the tourism potential that historical regeneration of significant sites of interest would generate. Overall, the aim was to work collaboratively to generate routes to sustainable economic development.

This project was found to be very successful in meeting its objectives and in establishing longer-term relationships between important sets of actors in the field, based within all the partner cities involved. For instance:

- El Mina: A strategic plan for the promotion of the old town and job generation in the tourism sector.
- Beirut: Urban regeneration in the Zoqaq el-Blat district, an area inhabited by several communities and social classes, and distinguished by unique cultural and urban characteristics.
- Istanbul: Exploiting the tourism potential of the Hans District's Asix and its surroundings by increasing the number of tourists in the area.
- Oran: Revitalisation of the old city centre through the valorisation of its historic and architectural heritage. This city has long suffered from disorganised urban development in its suburbs and from the rapid expansion of its port infrastructure. The project focused on renovating the old historic centre of Sidi El Houari.
- Exchange of expertise: in October 2007, 7 students and 7 professors of architecture from Oran attended a 20-day training programme on building restoration and sculpture, within the context of the ARCHIMEDES project. This training is necessary to equip local experts with the skills necessary for the restoration of old facades in the old city centre (Sidi El Houari).
- Overall, positive encounters and connections were facilitated between groups of researchers from each of the cities focusing on urban issues and local development concerns in the cities taking part in the project.
- The collaborative development of new communication tools to facilitate teamwork and to relate project achievements to a wider audience through strong dissemination strategies and actions.

The methodological approach adopted by the ARCHIMEDES project proved innovative, and was a contributing factor in the overall success of the project. ARCHIMEDES was based on a partnership with privileged bilateral relations. Each neighbourhood country city was “associated” with an EU partner city involved in the project, which provided it with ad hoc technical assistance in the

realisation of strategic goals. The cities of Istanbul and Beirut were linked to the city of Venice, the city of El Mina to Genoa and the city of Oran to Bordeaux. These bilateral relations facilitated more targeted support and advice from European cities, as well as allowing their scientific and technical experts to focus on a single case study instead of having to deal with all four cities.

Within the framework of these bilateral relations, other visits by EU experts to the participating cities in the neighbourhood countries were organised, and vice versa. The project saw a total of 12 visits taking place in all partner cities.

All partners recognised the importance of the technical visits: such meetings allowed the European experts to find out more about the project and the area concerned, and contributed to a fruitful direct exchange of information, ideas and experience between technicians and coordinators.

Finally, the ARCHIMEDES project was also successful in fostering the training of students in the preservation and management of cultural heritage. In October 2007, 7 students and 7 professors of architecture in Oran (Algeria) attended a 20-day training programme on buildings restoration and sculpture, in the framework of the Archimedes activities. This training is essential for the restoration of old façades in the old city centre (Sidi El Houari), and represents a key step in the agenda for using transnational projects such as ARCHIMEDES to build knowledge and expertise amongst a successor generation of culture specialists in the region.

Supporting future projects in this area

As the MED-PACT financing scheme drew to a close at the end of its three-year period in 2009, the legacy of the lessons learned and the need to drive forward the collaborative projects in this area have led to the creation in 2010 of a new, successor financing scheme for interaction between local and regional authorities known as the CIUDAD¹⁹ programme (Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue). This programme now operates in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, so is not strictly speaking limited to the EMP partner countries. Instead, its reach embraces the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area along with those of Central and Eastern Europe. By creating new partnerships and strengthening existing ones among local and regional authorities in the ENPI region (South-South, East-East and South-East partnerships), the programme hopes to achieve long-term benefits, extending beyond the life of the programme. There are fundamental elements of learning and exchange of best practice between local and regional authorities in the area

¹⁹ <http://www.ciudad-programme.eu/>

of cultural preservation and enhancement that are likely to have a substantial impact over the next few years until 2012.

Each CIUDAD project will have a minimum of three partners, two of which must be in different European Neighbourhood Policy (ENPI) instruments, and one in the EU. An important theme of the CIUDAD programme is the importance for local authorities to work with civil society actors to identify priorities and to meet the needs of their communities.

Two projects financed under the CIUDAD programme are of particular note for the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean space:

Archeritage

Involving local and regional authorities in Italy, Tunisia, Romania and the Russian Federation, alongside academic research institutions, this project aims to develop further and promote cultural heritage tourism in the partner regions. The partner local and regional authorities involved in this trans-national project share a common history and cultural heritage due to the long-standing Roman Empire rule in these regions. The Archeritage project aims to create a network between these “similar” territories in order to then implement similar strategies and policies aimed at boosting tourism. The ultimate goal is to offer an exciting, interactive tourism product that lets people see and experience for themselves the “production” processes, methods and materials used by the ancient Romans to make pottery, oil, wine and such like. The network will involve local craftspeople, businesses and entrepreneurs (particularly women and young people) who will be invited to participate in developing and marketing these new products. Overall, the project aims to develop a common development plan for each region and to deliver promotional tools and materials that will allow them to boost tourism and promote their common heritage.

Save WHL Cities War Free World Heritage Listed Cities

Both Byblos (Lebanon) and Mtskheta (Georgia) are World Heritage Listed (WHL) cities which have recently come under threat due to the ravages of war. Despite the fact that WHL sites have a significant impact on the image of countries and local economies, few measures are put in place to safeguard them. In part, this is due to a lack of structures, guidelines and capacity to develop appropriate policies and prepare and implement risk management plans. This project aims to prepare two Enhanced Protection applications which can be submitted to protect further WHL cities under threat. In doing so, the project

aims to increase local and international community support for preserving the cultural heritage of these two sites.

7. Policy Recommendations

The preceding discussion highlights several core areas where the actions of ARLEM can further strengthen and enhance the role played by local and regional authorities in the Euro-Mediterranean area in the long-term preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in the Mediterranean.

- The various dimensions of “culture” in the Euro-Mediterranean area – economic, social, political – are fundamentally bound up with local and regional governance competencies. However, to date, schemes to finance projects that promote, protect and enhance cultural diversity have not directly tackled cultural preservation at the local and regional level.
 - Projects focusing on cultural preservation have involved local and regional actors only tangentially.
 - Projects to support local and regional authorities’ trans-national action in the Euro-Mediterranean area have focused on cultural preservation only tangentially.

There is a fundamental issue here in that these two dimensions have not explicitly been linked by the financial mechanisms which sustain cooperation across the Euro-Mediterranean space. This is a serious gap in funding support schemes which ARLEM can work to resolve.

Devising a more systematic approach for the engagement of local and regional actors in projects that aim directly to preserve and enhance cultural heritage in the region would help to maximise the vital contribution which they can make. Under the present financing arrangements, their impact remains piecemeal, as there is no joined-up approach to foster and promote cultural preservation and enhancement actions at the local and regional level. **This is an issue that ARLEM can pursue with major funding bodies.**

These programmes, to be operated at the local level, should focus on:

- Youth participation
- Education
- New media initiatives in the sphere of cultural preservation and enhancement

- In the initial instance, ARLEM can work to highlight and to demonstrate the key role played by local and regional authorities in the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean area, showcasing instances of good practice and generating public awareness of their role. **Organising a workshop and seminar showcasing the role of local and regional authorities in the preservation of cultural heritage and outlining opportunities to engage in EU-funded programmes would be an ideal start point.**
- Culture projects need to overcome the discrepancy between the fact that cultural projects aim to bring these societies together and facilitate mutual understanding on the basis of a shared cultural history, and yet at the same time, EU immigration and asylum policies reinforce a sense of difference. As the level of political authority that is closest to the citizens, local and regional authorities can promote intercultural understanding at a human and social level which can address this fundamental discrepancy more effectively.
- One of the key policy recommendations of the Anna Lindh Foundation's Report on Euromed Intercultural Trends 2010 was that local and regional bodies from the Euro-Mediterranean region should continue to support intercultural exchanges within the urban space. This builds on a notable higher interest and awareness of neighbouring cultures in the region amongst urban populations. Local and regional governmental authorities can build upon this situation and foster through trans-national initiatives increased understanding of cultural differences along with shared cultural heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean area. **ARLEM should raise awareness of the findings of the Anna Lindh Foundation's Report on Euromed Intercultural Trends 2010 and generate debate on the local and regional implications of these conclusions.**
- The Anna Lindh Foundation is one of the most significant cultural actors in the Euro-Mediterranean area, yet direct linkages with local and regional actors, and associations of local and regional authorities, remain weak. ARLEM should work closely together with the Anna Lindh Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures to develop a specific local and regional profile to that important organisation's work, and to increase the local and regional dimension of its ongoing work programme. A good starting point would be to **organise a joint conference in the region to highlight the role of local and regional authorities in the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage in the Mediterranean, accompanied**

by a joint publication to showcase local and regional dimensions of cultural initiatives in the region.