



PRESS RELEASE



Euromed Heritage
التراث الأوروبي المتوسطي

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Strengthening education and training for careers in the Mediterranean heritage: a priority step for human and economic development of the region

International Workshop on Training and Education (Algiers, 12-15 December 2010 - Hotel Safir Mazafran, Zéralda)

Appropriate training in heritage skills - restoration, museology, tourism, etc. - as well as the education of local people, especially youth, is essential so that the heritage can become a vehicle for human and economic development in countries of the southern Mediterranean.

Approximately 40 representatives from the Ministries of Culture and from the departments of the Heritage of the Mediterranean partner countries and organizations of civil society, which are active in the revitalization of the heritage, will address these issues during a workshop in Algiers. The workshop is part of the specific action program of the European Union Euromed Heritage aiming, since 2008, to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for the heritage of the Mediterranean partner countries, and carried out with the national authorities of these countries.

The workshop will provide an opportunity "to make an "inventory" as regards the principal actors - local and national authorities, associations, corporations - their roles and the desirable partnerships, the career opportunities and the priorities in terms of areas or target audiences, as regards the methods and allocation of human and financial resources, and finally with regards to international cooperation," said J.L. Luxen, an expert in international legal aspects of heritage and responsible for the workshop. There will also be presented the actions of Euromed Heritage projects and in particular the ones conducted in Algeria: volunteer work camps for the safeguarding and enhancement of heritage linked to the management of water in Cherchell and Tipaza, educational activities for primary schools and training of tourist guides and artisans in Dellys and Ghardaia, career training in books and digitalisation for the safeguarding of manuscripts and audiovisual archives of Algerian TV etc.

At a press briefing at the opening sessions on December 12, scheduled for 9 am at the Safir Mazafran Hotel in Zéralda, Algiers, the winners will be announced of "Crossing Viewpoints: the Living Heritage of the Mediterranean", a photography contest launched in May 2010 by Euromed Heritage and the Rehabimed Association. Young Algerian amateur and professional photographers have responded with enthusiasm: out of a total of 327 participants, 40 were Algerians – of which more than half are under 30 years old - representing more than 10% of total entries received from 30 countries on both sides of the Mediterranean.

The workshop will be inaugurated by Ms Laura Baeza Giral, EU Ambassador to Algeria and Ms Fadija Toumi, Minister of Culture.

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The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

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