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MEDISTONE

Preservation of ancient MEDiterranean sites in terms of their ornamental and building STONE: from determining stone provenance to proposing conservation/restoration techniques

Action Line: INCO-2003-B2.1 Materials, artifacts, monuments and sites: new technologies and characterisation

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Activity Areas



The conservation of archaeological sites around the Mediterranean basin constitutes a major challenge for the future. Hitherto, studies of archaeological sites have tended to lack sustained follow-up over time, and not interacted sufficiently with other similar sites to enhance the results of research. Three archaeological sites two listed within UNESCO's World Heritage List, have been selected for this study. Site selection has been based on priorities for site preservation and tourism indicated by those non-European participating partner countries where a demonstrable scientific challenges and possible breakthroughs for site preservation have been identified. The **MEDISTONE** approach will consist of:

- i) Identifying stones used at the selected sites and determining their origins in terms of geographic areas and, if possible, the former quarry sites; at the present time, the region of origin of numerous decorative stones used in constructions dating from antiquity, both in the west and the orient (and often reused in the Middle Ages) remains poorly defined or even unknown
- ii) Establishing diagnosis of the state of conservation of the stones at the sites; whilst the causes and the mechanisms of the deterioration to stone are relatively well known for temperate European climates, the semi-arid continental climate of the selected sites, characterised by strong thermal amplitudes, high evaporation and strong wind action, together bring about specific weathering and alteration requiring more thorough investigations
- iii) Providing answers to the main problems regarding stone conservation / restoration that are liable to be met at the selected sites; it involves developing techniques for reassembling fractured and fissured stones; this phase will be based on European know-how and will take into account the climatic and environmental specificity, as well as the social-economic context in each Mediterranean partner country.

Project details

Project Reference: 15245 **Contract Type:** Specific Targeted Research Project

Start Date: 2006-01-01 **End Date:** 2008-12-31

Duration: 36 months **Project Status:** Execution

Project Cost: 1.36 million euro **Project Funding:** 1.04 million euro

Participant Organization: CONSEIL SUPRÊME DES ANTIQUITÉS EGYPTIENNES	Country: EGYPT
Participant Organization: MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE	Country: MOROCCO
Participant Organization: UNIVERSITÉ DE BOUMERDÈS	Country: ALGERIA
Participant Organization: AGENCE NATIONALE D'ARCHEOLOGIE ET DE PROTECTION DES SITES ET MONUMENTS HISTORIQUES'	Country: ALGERIA
Participant Organization: LINKE-GRUTZNER-DAHNE + PARTNER RESTAURATEN UND INGENIEURE / PONS ASINI	Country: GERMANY
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