

Digest of latest news and actions of ATHENA Project of the EuroMed Heritage IV Program funded by the European Union

EuroMed Heritage IV Program funded by the European Union

## From the Acting Director-General

*It gives me great pleasure to introduce the second issue of the ATHENA Project Newsletter which provides information and news on the activities the ATHENA Office in the Department of Antiquities in Jordan is achieving.*

*Our first newsletter, in January 2012, and distributed electronically and in print to more than 500 contacts in Jordan and all our partners in Tunisia, Algeria, Italy and Spain, and regional countries including EU headquarters in Brussels, is being received with much success measured from the feedback we are receiving.*

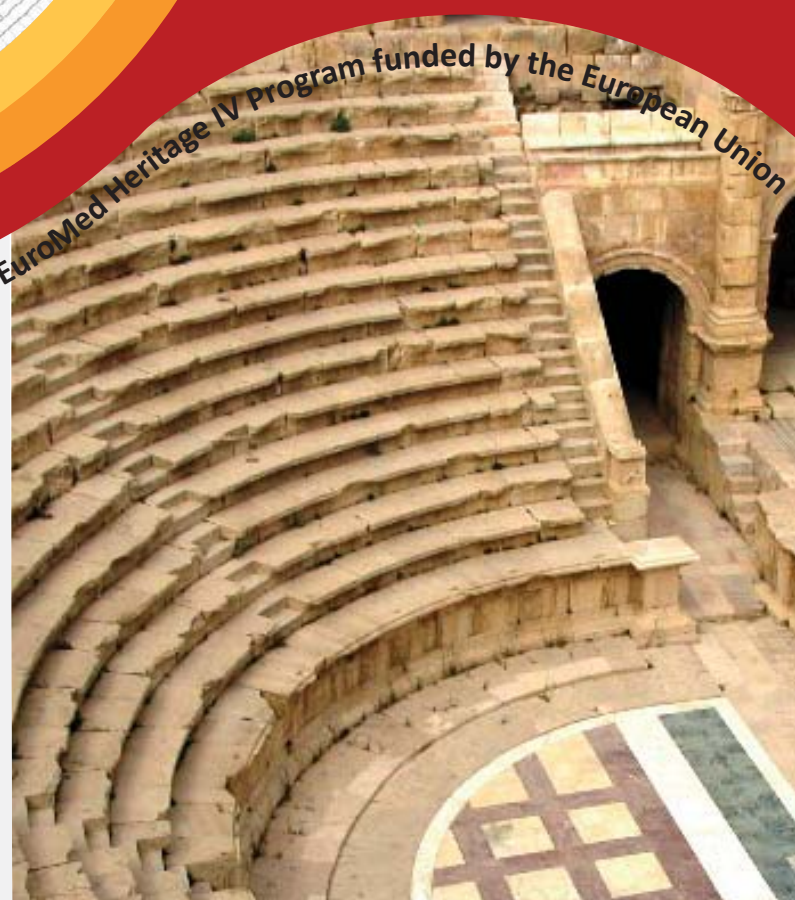
*Action going to the heart of the Ancient Theaters Enhancement for New Actualities program concerning outreach and building relations with different sectors of society is being made.*

*Agreements are now in the pipeline between the Department of Antiquities in Jordan and the ATHENA Office with the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center in Amman concerning technical cooperation. The RJGC agreed to provide our staff with training on specialized programs like the GPS and sensing.*

*Community outreach is also being made for the staging of events related to the greater awareness of ancient theaters, and how we can utilize them for our benefit and sustainability while taking care of their protection.*

*I hope our partners will find this newsletter useful as a communication tool to put the ATHENA message across to create a chain of proper, objective development between the different sections of society and the use of theaters in our Euromed region.*

**Faris Al Hmoud**  
Acting Director-General  
Department of Antiquities, Jordan



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ROYAL JORDANIAN GEOGRAPHIC CENTRE

المركز الجغرافي الملكي الأردني

## Shaking Hands: Cooperation with Royal Jordanian Geographic Center

Within the framework of creating cooperative agreements and networking with local sectors, teams in the ATHENA Office in the Department of Antiquities and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center have met last February.

ATHENA Project Manager Mr Nizar Adarbah discussed with the RJGC Director-General Col. Dr Awni Al Khasawneh cooperation between the ATHENA Project and the Royal Jordanian Geographical Center. Dr Al Khasawneh was very pleased and said he is very much interested in cooperation.

ATHENA team members including Dr Marwan Asmar Project Chief Editor, Ms Samia Khouri, Head of Interpretation in DoA, and Ms Hanadi Al Taher, Head of Studies and Research in DoA also attended the meeting.

A full meeting ensued afterwards led by the RJGC Deputy Director General Mr Ahmed Al Hajjaj, Mr Ibrahim Obeid, Administrative and Financial Director, Ahed Al Qatarneh (Project Studies Director), and



Director-General Al Khasawneh

Khaled Tayeh (RJGC Officer )whereby a draft Memorandum of Understanding was discussed relating to training, possibility of joint projects, exchange of data and consultancy.

The RJGC has put these points of agreement into draft form and presented to the ATHENA Office and the Department of Antiquities and are awaiting formal signing.



ANCIENT THEATRES ENHANCEMENT FOR  
NEW ACTUALITIES  
PROJECT  
تعظيم قديم المسارح القديمة لأدوار جديدة



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Department of Antiquities  
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



[www.rjgc.gov.jo](http://www.rjgc.gov.jo)

# THEATER

<http://www.athenaproject.eu/project-library/thesaurus>

Italy  
 Siracusa  
 Theater  
 Petra  
 Jordan  
 Spain  
 Merida  
 Carthage  
 Jarash  
 Tunisia  
 Euromed Heritage  
 التراث الأوروبي المتوسطي

## Ancient Theater Thesaurus Going Online

A thesaurus of terms related to ancient theaters has been prepared by the Tunisian partner in the ATHENA Project and will shortly be uploaded on the ATHENA Project website at [www.athenaproject.eu/project-library/thesaurus](http://www.athenaproject.eu/project-library/thesaurus).

The thesaurus which has been prepared by the Institut aux Etudes Littéraires et de Sciences Humaines de Tunis of the University of Tunis is in four languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

It includes standard terms and words for different sections and parts of ancient theaters as they have developed in Greek and Roman times and used today.

"Because it is translated into four languages, the thesaurus serves as an important document for those who work in the field of ancient theater restoration and

usage," says Ahmad Al Marwani, head of the Institut aux Etudes Littéraires et de Sciences Humaines.

The thesaurus is being uploaded separately as a specific section on ancient theaters and there will be further cooperation with the Regional Monitoring and Support Unit (RMSU) overseeing the ATHENA project under the Euromed Heritage Program IV to upgrade it in the near future.

An interesting feature of the thesaurus is it has terms related to the activities made on the theater stage including folk tales, mime, mask, pantomime, which makes it much more attractive to the general public and not just to the specialist. The ATHENA Team in Jordan is now working on enriching the Thesaurus with more related terminologies and will be producing a final version with full illustrations, plans, and images.



# Theaters in Education

## *Educational Event in the Jarash South Theater, 5th May*

The goal is to make people more aware of the importance of ancient theaters and its great variety of usage. It is within this context the ATHENA Office in the DoA is holding a major cultural activity in the Jarash South Theater on 5 May for school children from Jarash and other educational establishments from Amman.

Discussions are under way and the start of preparations being made to hold the activity in this ancient theater, one of the sites under study in the Euromed ATHENA Project which includes the Petra Theater, Siracusa Theater (Italy), Carthage Theater (Tunisia), Cherchell Theater (Algeria) and Merida Theaters (Spain).

Among the possible events and activities being discussed include Hand Puppet Show to send awareness messages on the importance of ancient theaters, a quiz on ancient theaters, a poetry competition, a Roman Show and a short operetta about hope and work performed by visually-impaired children.

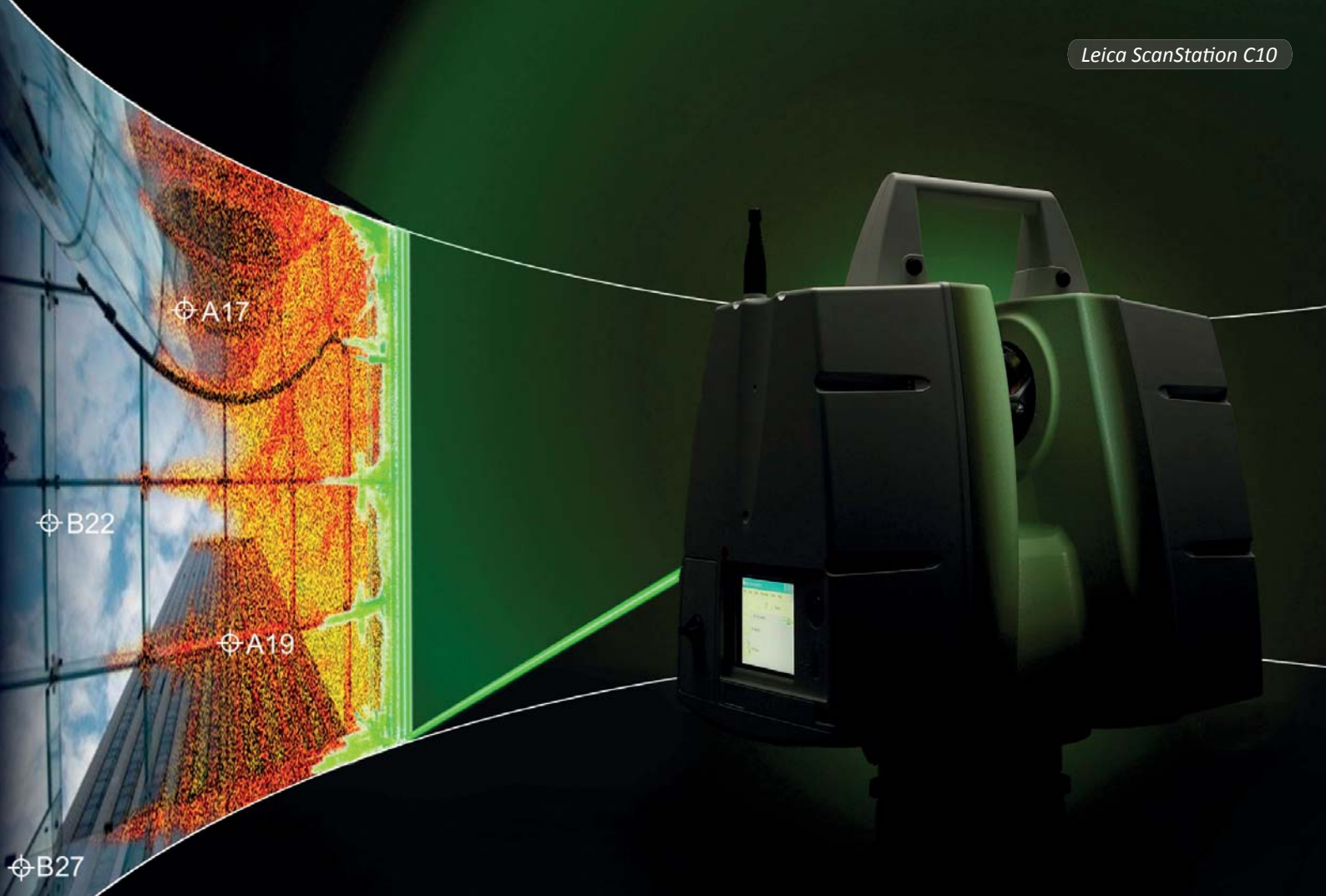
The aim is to be diverse, to entertain the children and educate them at the same time on the importance of

these theaters and the role they have played in human history. Through the event, ATHENA wants to show these places were chosen to bring people together, to make decisions, hold events, for sports, and for educational activities.

"We want to stress these aspects so that children can begin to understand the importance of ancient theaters, and the need for their protection and preservation, and to stress the role of the local community" says Al Adarbeh.

Such a show is going to be documented through different communication mediums including audio-visual because of its range of activities and its logistical importance in bringing children from different schools in Jordan.

Shortly after, the ATHENA Office is planning to send such documentation to the different partners in Tunisia, Italy, Algeria and Spain to be emulated as one way to raise awareness among the young and the youth, a major group representing the future generation to uphold the protection of a major part of our cultural heritage.



## Training Activity: Design of Surveying Course

A fully prepared course on surveying through the use of work stations for the documentation of archaeological sites is being developed by the Department of Antiquities (DoA) in Jordan to better improve the work processes.

This course is one part of a training program that will also include another section on Data Processing to be prepared during the middle of this year.

The course work, still in manuscript form, has been developed by the DoA staff, and is now in the process of following steps and procedures towards being edited to be designed and then published.

The document, which is divided into five sections, outlines the process from the initial stages of sketching the location to the details of the area under study, as well as registration and documentation.

The course focuses on the use of the 3DLaser Scanner which has been acquired by the DoA as part of the EU grant under Euromed Heritage IV Program.

As laid out in both content and graphics, ready to be

used for training purposes inside and outside the Department of Antiquities, the program offers an ABC guidelines of how to use the new 3D scanner as part of the general survey of different archaeological sites.

Features of the Leica C 10 Scan Station is offered as course material explaining in detailed form the functions and operating system of the equipment to its conclusion of data processing.

It's a step-by-step approach designed to show surveyors how to make best use of work stations, highlighting in graphics and diagrams the tool bars, control buttons and adjustable screen of the Scan Station for surveyors, workers and even students of optimal usage.

"The raw material for the coursework is already intact, we hope to start the process of editing, graphics and eventual publications very soon, and the Department of Antiquities will be looking for education partners in the public sector who would be willing to introduce the course as part of their curriculum," says ATHENA Project Manager Nizar Adarbeh.



## Jordan Hosts Regional ATHENA Consortium in May

**Preparations are under way to hold the regional conference of the ATHENA Project Consortium taking place in Amman beginning of May, 2012.**

The venue to discuss the latest developments in the Ancient Theaters Enhancement for New Actualities program, is being organized by the ATHENA Project Office in the Department of Antiquities in Jordan.

The meeting, hosting all regional partners from Tunisia, Italy, Spain and Algeria, include representatives from the Institut aux Etudes Littéraires et de Sciences Humaines de Tunis, Labo Bati Dans l'Environnement, University of Science and Technology, Houari Boumediene, Algeria, Universidad Politecnica de Valencia Instituto de Restauracion del Patrimonio in Spain and Dipartimento di Storia, Disegno e Restauro dell'Architettura (DiSDRA).

Representatives from the Regional Monitoring and Support Unit (RMSU) of the European Commission which is funding the ATHENA Project under the Euro-Med Heritage IV will be attending to discuss and network with the partners on the ground.

The meeting will have representatives from the four associate partners in the ATHENA Project including CyArk High Definition Heritage Network, Centro Regionale Progettazione e Restauro, Via Cristoforo Colombo, Arab Towns Organization (ATO), Instituto de Arqueología-Mérida.

Top officials, dignitaries, academics, experts and professionals in the field will be attending the conference which will have seminars and presentations on the work activities that have taken place across the ATHENA countries.

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تعظيم قيم المسارح القديمة لأدوار جديدة

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Department of Antiquities  
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**EuroMed Heritage IV**  
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ARQUEOLOGIA

## Building linkages

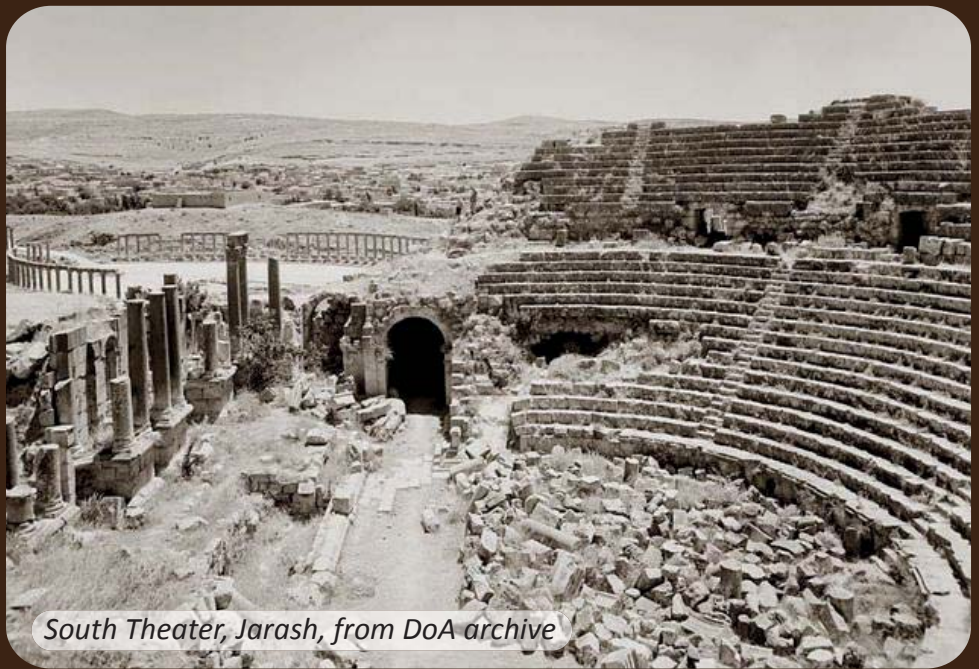
The ATHENA Project team met Director of the Directorate of Studies and Publications in the DoA Ms Qamar Fakhoury to boost cooperation and exchange of documentation.

Ms Fakhoury outlined the role and functions of the Directorate which includes documentation, publishing and interpretation and studies. She added the directorate is responsible for important publications such as Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan which are devoted to the studies of the cultural heritage of Jordan and results of archaeological fieldwork.

This meeting discussed the use of the resources and archival pictures on ancient theaters for upcoming events to be held as part of the ATHENA Project.

**“The Directorate has an impressive number of archival pictures of ancient theaters and other archaeological ruins in the Kingdom collected and documented since the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and onwards” Ms Fakhoury says.**

It is important to have the use of such pictures as part of the EU-funded Ancient Theaters Enhancement for New Actualities program.



South Theater, Jarash, from DoA archive

On another level the ATHENA Office is now networking with the Museum Directorate in the DoA over a number of issues related to museums in Jordan and ancient theaters.

Talks with Head of the Directorate Ms Huda Kilani centered on the possibility of joint cooperation related to the applications of the 3D Scanner, and upcoming events which can bring the ATHENA message on ancient theaters forward.

Joint cooperation is being made at present in the field of possible publications, studies, research, editing and putting forward greater theater content in Jordanian museums.



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