

Monday 12th December in Amman, at the Department of Antiquities, representatives of the INDICATE project from Italy, Spain and Egypt met with 50 experts from Jordan institutions to discuss about the new frontiers of the digital cultural heritage.

INDICATE is a project supported by the European Commission coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Culture where the Department of Antiquities is partner. Within INDICATE, a wide range of Euro-Mediterranean experts are committed to study and to demonstrate benefits and advantages that can derive to the cultural sector by the use of the new Information and Communication Infrastructures.

The workshop started with the welcome message from Mr. Amer Qimash, Technical Assistant of the Director General at the Department of Antiquities. The Director Rossella Caffo, Project Manager of INDICATE then provided a wide overview of the work done by the European cultural institutions during the last ten years, under the coordination of Italy, for the development of a common platform of standards, recommendations, aggregation of content as well awareness, training and dissemination actions. The work continued with Antonella Fresa, Technical Coordinator of the INDICATE project, who presented the INDICATE e-Culture Science Gateway, a technical development which provides access to pilot applications and concrete use case studies. A key note speech was then provided by Prof. Ioannis Kanellos from the Ecole Nationale Superior des Télécommunications de Bretagne (France) who presented a very interesting approach to the virtual museology. Representatives and directors from many major Jordan cultural and academic institutions discussed about the new paradigm of the virtual exhibitions that are offering means of enhancing visitors experiences and opening masterpieces to unexpected discovery by amateurs, researchers and students.

The workshop continued in the afternoon with very interesting presentations of example of best practice from Barcelona, Cairo, Rome and Amman, who have been a perfect practical complement the theoretical session of the morning.

The Department of Antiquities will continue its contribution to INDICATE participating to the rich program of events that have already been announced during the workshop of today, and that will take place during 2012, namely: the workshop on geo-coded cultural content in Ljubljana (Slovenia), the Technical Conference in Catania (Italy), the policy workshop in Paris (France) and the final INDICATE Conference in Cairo (Egypt).

The participation of the Department of Antiquities to the INDICATE project represents an important opportunity for the Jordan cultural sector to be part of a development that is expected to continue in the coming years also with the support to the international cooperation by the European Commission.