

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

From the Acting Director-General

In a bid to increase the visibility, communications and dissemination of the work of the ATHENA Project, my Department of Antiquities is pleased to partake in the production of this newsletter as documentation of our latest activities on the Ancient Theaters Enhancement for New Actualities, funded by the European Commission under the Euromed Heritage IV Program.

This newsletter highlights the latest news, actions, developments of the work relating to ancient theaters not only in Jordan (Petra and Jerash) but also in the member countries taking part in the Euromed Heritage IV Program including Tunisia, Algeria, Italy and Spain.

As such this newsletter seeks to bring closer cooperation between our countries and to cross-border Mediterranean civilizations and enthuse a greater degree of cultural interaction between our countries and Europe to make our relationship much more dynamic, fluid, interactive and purposeful.

Concrete actions have been taken and are undertaken in this European Funded Project as highlighted here, to show the kind of development that is taking place on the ground. One of which (see separate story) is the documentation of the Ancient Theaters using 3D scanning technology and to do with the training of Jordanian cadres on 3D Laser technology to enable local surveyors to get the best form of theater reconstruction and restoration.

I hope our partners and stakeholders find this newsletter useful as a reference point for the stages of work actions in the Heritage Program.

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



Petra Theater

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

a programme funded by the European Union/
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أوروجيم مسون من الاتحاد الأوروبي

3D Laser Scanner Boosts Sites Enhancement

Jordan's Department of Antiquities (DoA), a leading partner in the ATHENA Project, is today championing work activities, through its acquisition of a 3D C10 Laser Scanner and other equipments to help it in restoration work on different sites in the Kingdom.



Working on 3D Laser Scanner

Jamal Al Safi and Tawfiq Al Hunaiti, surveyors in the Department are the latest professionals to be fully trained on the latest Laser Scanner as part of the ATHENA Project (www.athenaproject.eu) funded by the European Commission under the Euromed Heritage IV Program (www.euromedheritage.net).

This is part of Work Package 3 of the program related to Jordan and involves the Dipartimento di Rilievo, and disegnodell'Ambiente e dell'Architettura (RADAAR) of the Sapienza Universita di Roma which sent special five-persons technical team from Italy to train Jordanian cadres on the latest laser scanner last March 2011.



Sketching in Petra

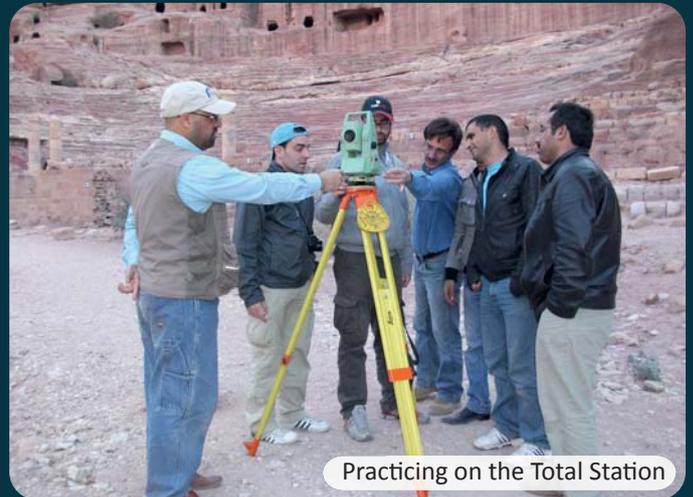
Because of their aptitude Al Safi and Al Hunaiti were chosen to be trained on the latest and top-of-the-form scanner that is essential part of the activities for the "Ancient Theaters Enhancement for New Actualities" program.

"We were given a step-by-step training on the scanner, its functions and utilities to get the most images out of surface

exteriors and facades and plot out necessary points for ancient theaters and other archaeological digs," adds Al Safi.

The effectiveness of the Laser C10 Scanner lies in the precision of the imagery. "The scanner is simple, yet sophisticated and complex, and offers much quality because of its clarity and transparency which is already providing essential data and records that can easily be archived of different elevations, details of column, spaces, hard surfaces and other structures," adds Al Safi.

Hunati is upbeat about the latest scanner addition, saying reconstruction, restoration, documentations and detailing works in different sites in theaters in Jerash and Petra is now much more enhanced as a result of the C10 scanner. The Department of Antiquities in Jordan is continuing to receive other equipments like total stations as part of the ATHENA Project.



Practicing on the Total Station

"Al Safi and Al Hunaiti are travelling to Italy in March 2012 to continue the second stage of the training on the laser scanner on the treatment of data acquired and how to be treated effectively to produce best results and outcomes." says Carlo Bianchini from Dipartimento di Rilievo, and disegnodell'Ambiente e dell'Architettura (RADAAR) of the Sapienza Universita di Roma, which are leading the Work Package 5 concerned with Dissemination and Capacity Building.



Teaming together

Work in Progress: Ancient Theaters across Euro-Med Borders

The ATHENA Project is to do with countries of the Mediterranean region, earmarking different archaeological sites with designated authorities and academic institutions responsible for project rehabilitations.

Within the ATHENA Project (Ancient Theaters Enhancement for New Actualities) six regional sites have been identified within the Mediterranean cross-border framework. Degrees of progress have steadily increase starting from research and documentation of ancient theaters to other aspects of heritage management and development.

Stakeholders across the Euromed region today including Jordan's Ministry of Tourism/Department of Antiquities is acting as the lead partner and overall coordinator of ATHENA Project (www.athenaproject.eu) along with other four main partners including Institut aux Etudes Litteraires et de Sciences Humaines de Tunis of the University of Tunis, LaboBatiDansl'Environment—University of Science and Technology, Houari Boumediene, Algeria, Universidad Politecnica de Valencia—Instituto de Restauraciondel Patrimonio in Spain and Dipartimento di Rilievo, and disegnodell'Ambiente e dell'Architettura (RADAAR) of the Sapienza Universita di Roma.



Syracuse Theater in Sicily

These institutions have become responsible for the implementation of the project activities across the different countries in the ATHENA Project.

Sites currently managed including the ancient theaters of Petra and Jerash in Jordan, theater of Syracuse in Italy, the Carthage theater in Tunisia, ancient theater of Cherchell in Algeria and the theater of Merida in Spain.

Research and Documentation work has been underway through the surveying and training in different partner countries as in the case of the two sites in Jordan where a sophisticated laser scanner is being employed to produce 3D modeling of existing theater surfaces and facades. Same efforts have been accomplished in Merida, Spain.

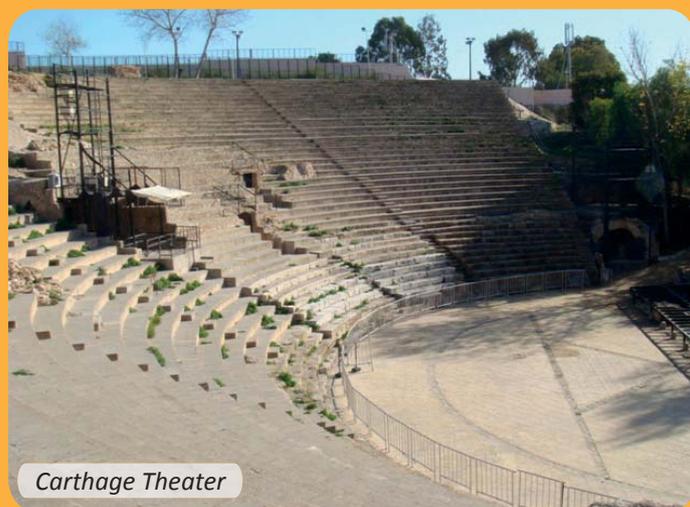


An Event at Merida Theater

There is a very clear objective in the ATHENA Project which is to minimize the progressive decay of ancient theaters in terms of physical, cultural and socio-economic aspects by endorsing proper management plans and at the same time support the revival of theaters as part of the wider archaeological site and within the cultural urban context.

As have been set out from the start ATHENA has become an extension of the long evolving Euromed Heritage that was long instituted to contribute to the creation of mutual understanding between existing cultures of the Mediterranean region.

An effort initiated under the Euromed Heritage Programme (www.euromedheritage.net) through the MEDA financial instrument, and managed by the European Commission's EuropeAid Co-operation Office, the Euromed Heritage regional programme has committed 57 million euros since 1998 to fund partnerships between conservation experts and heritage institutions from the countries of the Mediterranean Sea. Almost 400 partners from the Member States of the EU and Mediterranean Partner countries have benefited from the Programme during its past phases starting with Euromed Heritage I to Euromed Heritage IV.



Carthage Theater

DoA Designs Training Course on Using Cutting Edge Laser Technology

As a result of the training on the C10 Laser Scanner, a training course has been designed under the auspices of the Jordan Department of Antiquities in draft form awaiting final additions and editing.

The course has been developed as a result of the detailed training that was given in Amman by a five-person Italian technical team of experts who came to train Jordanian personnel on the new C10 Laser Scanner under the ATHENA Project terms.

"This user training course will be part of a training program about the use of cutting-edge technology in documentation and archaeological sites," says ATHENA Project Manager Nizar Al Adarbeh.

"This training program will ensure that embedment and sustainability of the project capacity building results and efforts as this training program will be offered to DoA staff, public sector entities, universities and others," he adds.

ATHENA at ICOMOS Assembly

In line with protecting ancient theaters under the Sustainability and Embedding framework, ATHENA Project Manager Nizar Al Adarbeh participated in the 17th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in Paris (www.icomos-paris2011.com), at the UNESCO Headquarters between 27 November and 2 December 2011.



"We discussed with the ICOMOS Board of Directors and some of its scientific committees, cooperation with the ATHENA Project and dissemination of its results with ICOMOS members, and the embedding of these such as the Management Plan and the ATHENA Project Charter for Ancient Theaters," Al Adarbeh says.

Around 1,000 professionals from all over the world convened in this important event under the title of "Herit-

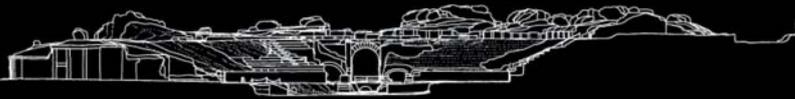
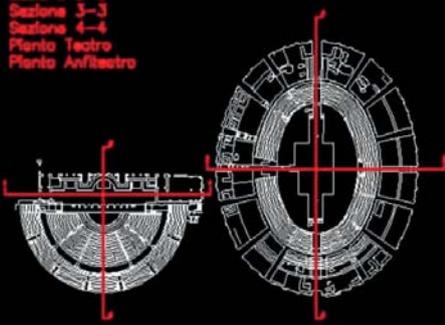
age, Driver of Development". "The ICOMOS is an important platform for the ATHENA Project to cooperate with and enhance its results and increase its outreach," Al Adarbeh adds.

ATHENA Project will be targeting such important organizations in the coming months of 2012 for different activities and events.



A view of the Assembly

Sezione 1-1
Sezione 2-2
Sezione 3-3
Sezione 4-4
Pianta Teatro
Pianta Anfiteatro



Upcoming ATHENA Week in Jordan Signifies Success of Activity for all Member Countries

It started in Merida Spain, now its emulated in all ATHENA Project countries, the ATHENA Week is today a major work activity across the Mediterranean.

Jordan will be having its Third ATHENA Week in Amman in March following the ATHENA Project General Consortium Meeting, 2012, to show the latest progress that has been achieved in the restoration process of ancient theaters.

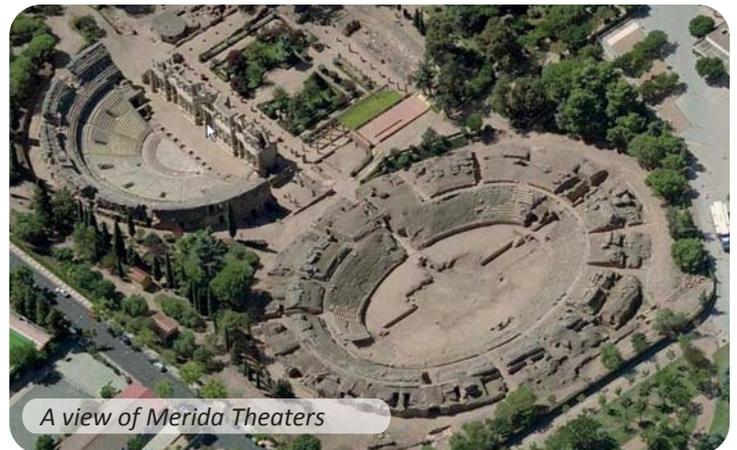
The development of the ATHENA Week which takes place in all participating countries showcases work activities like surveys and training carried out to support restoration, development and community innovation going on in the different sites of the regional project.

The First ATHENA Week took place in the Theaters of Merida in Spain in 2009 and it subsequently became the role model for events in all of the five countries participating in the project.

ATHENA Weeks have proved lively events in the exchange and sharing of knowledge regarding ancient theaters, as they are periods of coordinated events and activities for the success of the projects in different areas of the ATHENA collective going to Tunisia, Algeria, and Italy.

These weeks are cultural, and include the holding of scientific conferences and meetings, informative points for the tourists visiting the sites, guided tours for young scholars as well as meetings with local communities, administrators, stakeholders as well as the holding of press conferences.

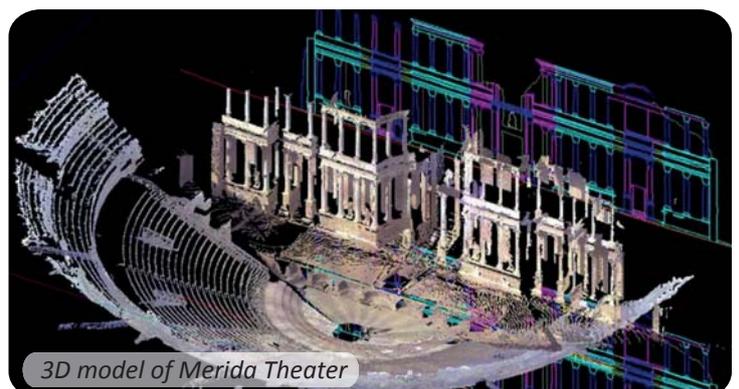
The ATHENA Weeks are used to highlight important happenings, events and developments. In the Second 2011 ATHENA Week in Petra and Jerash for example, the latest C10 Laser



A view of Merida Theaters

Scanner was introduced and immediate 2D and 3D modeling of the sites quickly got underway.

"The Weeks intend to strengthen the links involving the sites, their history, present functions and the involvement of local communities, especially young people, in the activities taking place," says Acting Director-General of the Jordan Department of Antiquities Mr Faris Al Hmoud, and whose country is a leader partner in the ATHENA Project.



3D model of Merida Theater



RMSU EuroMed Workshop, Tangiers Focuses on Sustainability and Embedding for Stakeholders

ATHENA Project Team Amman, Jordan took part in the Sustainability and Embedding Training Workshop held in Tangier, Morocco between 17-19 November, 2011.

The aim of the workshop, organized by the Regional Monitoring and Support Unit (RMSU) of the European Commission, is to provide training and technical support of the heritage projects to the member countries taking part in the Euromed Heritage Program IV.

Teams from Jordan (Nizar Adarbeh, ATHENA Project Manager and Maysoun Al-Qatarneh, Director of External Cooperation Unit at DoA), Tunisia, Algiers, Spain and Italy participated in the workshop that discussed a framework for achieving sustainability of the heritage projects stakeholders are involved in, and the long-term embedding of these outcomes.

Much discussion and presentation of papers was involved in the venue organized in cooperation with the London Metro-



Participants tour la Kasbah

politan University, Musee de la Kasbah and the Siwa-Tangiers Project.

Christiane Dabdoub Nasser, Team Leader in the RMSU in Brussels, chaired an introductory session on the interpretation of sustainability, requirements involved and the plans for the embedding of outcomes achieved and the communication strategies.



Entry to la Kasbah

"The training was organized within the framework of the Euromed Heritage 4 activities and held to provide technical support to projects and partners and stimulate exchange on good practice between them and provide recommendations for the sustainability of the projects' results," points out Ms Dabdoub Nasser.

This immediately triggered lively discussions, debates and exchange of ideas among participating stakeholders and in group discussions about mapping out their ideas for 'embedding' based on what they have learned in the three-day workshop.



An ATHENA Project (Ancient Theaters Enhancement for New Actualities) concept paper was presented to the Virtual Exhibitions Workshop organized by INDICATE in Amman, 11 December 2011.

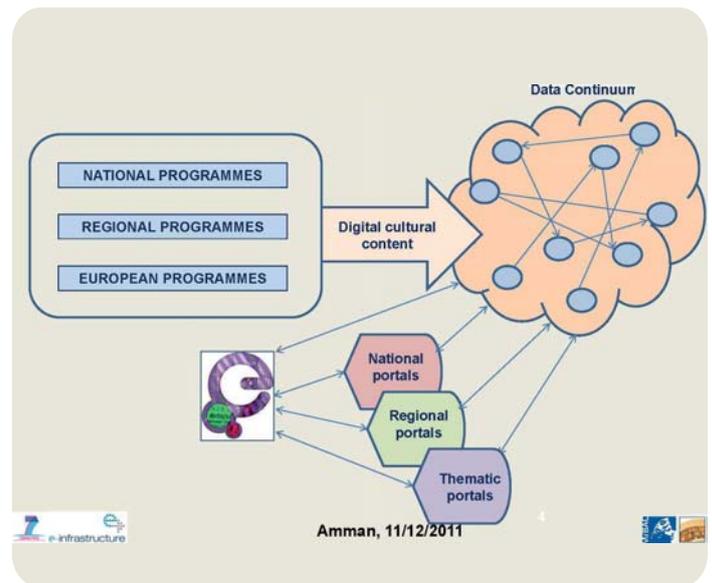
The power-point presentation was made by ATHENA's Project Manager Nizar Al Adarbeh to the public workshop organized by the International Network for Digital Cultural Heritage e-Infrastructure in cooperation with Jordan's Department of Antiquities.

The ATHENA Project made a strong participation in the Virtual Exhibitions Workshop that had a strong international presence lead by speakers from the Italian Ministry of Culture.

Acting Director-General of the Department of Antiquities Mr Faris Al Hmoud, and whose department is responsible for these projects says: "I am very pleased about the holding of this workshop in Amman which benchmarks best practices in virtual exhibitions, e-Infrastructures, resource analyses and deployment and implementations and which seeks to bring together different components we are working in the field of culture, heritage and archaeological restorations."

Participation in the Virtual Exhibitions Workshop was important as the ATHENA Project brings together experts and specialists in ancient theaters in Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Spain and Italy which today represent the remains of a living cultural heritage of Mediterranean civilizations.

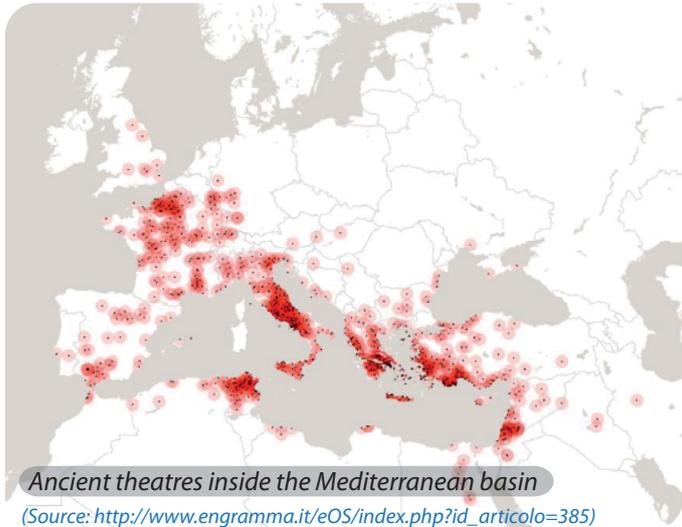
Project Manager Adarbeh says: "The ATHENA project is providing a significant contribution to the INDICATE network through its use of precision 3D modelling and interactive theater models through top-of-the-art laser scanners used by surveyors to identify best restoration methods in member countries."



www.indicate-project.org



Management Plan Chart Roadmaps in ATHENA Project Countries



Spanish partner, Universidad Politecnica de Valencia-Instituto de Restauracion del Patrimonio is at the forefront of Work Package 2 concerned with knowledge, the gathering of information and documentation related to the ATHENA Project.

"It has been essential to gather information and collection of data in the early phases of the ATHENA Project to be able to contribute towards creating a model Management Plan for the sites within the ATHENA framework," says Maria-Teresa Domenech from the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia.

"At first, the Plan will be tested as a pilot project on Jerash, before it can serve as a model for the rest of the ATHENA countries," she adds.

Spain has led in the progress towards formulating a Management Plan and User Manuals for the running of the sites under their responsibility.

Under the ATHENA framework of Ancient Theatres Enhancement for new Actualities, the perspective has always been from the point of view of ensuring sustainability, there must

be the creation of a Management Plan that would serve as a blueprint for the running of the sites.

Such a plan would not be rigid, but open and flexible, serving as a roadmap and a model for those working in restoration on the sites in the countries of the ATHENA Project. As outlined in the literature, the Management Plan, which would serve as a guide map for all, should be as a result of discussion and cooperation between the local authorities, communities and stakeholders involved. It needs to be made in a way to ensure it can easily be modified and updated.

To stress its importance, the issue of drawing up a Management Plan was discussed in the last 4th ATHENA Meeting held in Valencia on 16-17 June 2011 of stakeholders from the countries taking part.

The meeting was an eye-opener, providing examples of the development of a working management of different organizations in Spain including the Ministry of Culture, and seeking to provide participating stakeholders from the different countries with fresh perspectives, sharing information and methodologies.



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