



Euromed Heritage التراث الأوروبي المتوسطي

Rabat Workshop (Morocco) / December 8 – 9, 2009

Recommendations

Participants in the *Euromed Heritage 4 Workshop on the Urban Rehabilitation of Historic towns and quarters*, held recently in Rabat, undertook a comparative analysis of the situations in their respective countries, as well as with reference to the converging guidelines promoted by the specialised international organisations working in this area.

They are of the opinion that the next steps to be taken have been well identified.

In the majority of cases, a regulatory regime for urban rehabilitation has been put in place, even if sometimes it still needs to be completed.

What is most often lacking is progress in comprehensively implementing these international guidelines and these national regulations. It is here where additional action is required.

To this end, the Workshop participants have come up with the following priority recommendations which have been set out in the following short- and medium-term Action Plans:

Short-Term Actions

1. Conduct in each country a critical assessment of the current status of urban rehabilitation efforts there with a view to increasing the likely success of future projects in the sector
2. Bring up to date the rules and regulations concerning protected urban areas, especially the management plans for urban sites included on the UNESCO *World Heritage List under the current periodic reporting*.
3. Clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders involved in urban rehabilitation (especially municipalities); define and strengthen the powers to intervene and enforce relevant rules and regulations by the cultural heritage authorities.
4. Establish one or several bodies at the territorial level (communal and inter-communal), under public control, to ensure institutional and operational coordination between the different stakeholders working in urban rehabilitation.
5. Grant legal status to inventories and systemize the archiving of project documentation.
6. Recommend programs for maintenance and preventive conservation.

7. Conduct public awareness campaigns and training and capacity building programmes, targeting elected officials, social actors as well as the general public, with reference to the UNESCO Nairobi Recommendations of 1976 and the Washington ICOMOS Charter of 1978.

Medium-Term Actions

1. Promote and encourage mixed-used functions and more inclusive habitation in historic quarters and cities through the re-use of ancient buildings.
2. Combine the rehabilitation of old buildings with the upgrading of local infrastructure and service provision, the modernisation of networks and the re-vamping of public spaces.
3. Support the creation and use of financial support for rehabilitation in the form of financial incentives and other fiscal benefits in order to encourage urban rehabilitation for the benefit of the local population.
4. Initiate pilot projects addressing urban rehabilitation, and specifically urban adaptations for contemporary use.
5. Promote capacity building and training for professionals engaged in urban rehabilitation focussed on the design, implementation and monitoring of urban rehabilitation initiatives as well as through the publication of relevant technical guides.
6. Organize periodic workshops aimed at assessing the results of urban rehabilitation activities, using relevant quantitative and qualitative evaluation criteria.
7. Promote international cooperation and strengthen links with the specialized international organisations.

In addition to these priority action plans, Workshop participants considered it necessary to recall the importance of certain recommendations contained within

- the UNESCO *Recommendations concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas* (Nairobi, 1976) and
- the ICOMOS *Charter for The Protection of Historic Cities* (Washington D.C. 1987).

Reminder of General Recommendations

1. Seek to embed urban rehabilitation projects within the broader context of urban planning initiatives at the territorial level with a view to promoting an ongoing strategy for urban rehabilitation
2. Consider each intervention in the area of urban rehabilitation as part of broader social policy that prioritises the interests of people living in these areas, most particularly in terms of housing.
3. Involve local inhabitants in all stages and processes of urban rehabilitation activities through genuine public participation.

4. Implement all urban rehabilitation initiatives only after detailed diagnostic and feasibility studies have been carried out, especially those relating to structural and technical aspects of the rehabilitation.
5. Consider the urban area in question from the perspective of all the historical time periods and eras which may contribute to its heritage value.
6. Develop and promote a public heritage culture that attempts to share and promote the urban patrimony of both tangible and intangible heritage as widely and comprehensively as possible.