

Siwa-Tanger: Cultural heritage for a better life

Countries involved: Egypt, Italy, Morocco

Themes: *Arts & Crafts, cultural tourism, museums, intangible heritage, inventory, education & training*

Lead Partner:

COSPE Co-operation for the Development of Emerging Countries - Italy

<http://www.cospe.it> / <http://www.siwatanger.com/home.html>

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Partners:

- Siwa Community Development and Environment Conservation (SCDEC) - Egypt
- Musée de la Kasbah de Tanger - Direction du Patrimoine - Ministère de la Culture -Morocco

Summary :

The overall objective of this project is to preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of Siwa, in Egypt, and Tangier, in Morocco within a sustainable development framework leveraging on the basic principles of sustainability - such as participation, local ownership and knowledge dissemination. The action aims at promoting better knowledge and understanding of the local cultural assets, and creating effective management tools for sustainable safeguard of the tangible and intangible heritage of the cultures of Siwa and Tangier. The project's action revolves around four main poles: heritage protection, sustainable tourism, enhancement of handicrafts and awareness-raising to the value of cultural heritage.

Main achievements:

- Creation of an Observatory for the enhancement and protection of the heritage of Tangier.
- Training in collection and capturing of oral history; collection, classification and preservation of oral traditions on Siwi language and collection of documentation of traditional embroidery motifs; creation of the Documentation Centre to house all collected material.
- Development of cultural tourism circuits in the Medina of Tangier and the Oasis of Siwa; development of tourism infrastructures – signage, brochures, maps- and training of guides to promote these circuits.
- Training sessions in sustainable tourism in Siwa.
- Training sessions in traditional handicrafts for women and youth in both Siwa and Tangier, basic management skills and marketing.
- A series of awareness-raising actions targeting various sections of the local populations of Siwa and Tangier- community focus groups, site visits, arts and crafts workshops, seminars...