



KQ-46-02-428-EN-C



DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILISATIONS IN THE BARCELONA PROCESS



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ISBN 92-894-4378-2



9 789289 443784 >

European Commission

**Dialogue Between Cultures and Civilisations
in the Barcelona Process**

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications
of the European Communities

2002 — 28p. — 21 x 29.7cm

ISBN 92-894-4378-2



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CULTURES AND CIVILISATIONS
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Additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>)

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2002

ISBN 92-894-4378-2

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Designed by Nigel Soper
Printed in Belgium

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Printed on white chlorine-free paper.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS:
A. Bizeul: Pages 4, 7, 10 (top), 20
P. Blount: Pages 15 (both), 16
CORPUS: Cover (top), pages 10 (bottom), 11 (top)
C. Fernandez de la Puente: Page 18 (top)
J. Gehringer: Cover (centre), Pages 6, 13 (top), 14 (top, centre) 17 (top)
S. Grandadam (Granata Press Service for *Fêtes du Soleil*): Cover (left)
C. Hansen: Cover (right), page 11 (bottom)
EAMS: Page 17 (bottom)
European Commission: Pages 5, 19 (both)
EC Delegation, Israel: Page 18 (bottom)
Misr International Films, Egypt p 13 (bottom), p 14 (bottom)
Museum With No Frontiers: Pages 8 (top), 9 (both)
J. Viesti (Granata Press Service for *Fêtes du Soleil*): Page 8 (bottom)
(CORPUS, *Museum With No Frontiers*, *Fêtes du Soleil* are projects funded by the European Commission through Euromed Heritage I)

Contents

Foreword by Chris Patten	5
The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: Words into Action	7
Sharing Cultural Heritage: Euromed Heritage	11
Getting in the Picture: Euromed Audiovisual	13
Preparing Future Generations for Dialogue: Euromed Youth	15
Creating Partnerships	17
Where Next?	19
Web Addresses and Contacts	21



FOREWORD by Chris Patten

MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE the Barcelona Process was launched in 1995. Despite the political and economic turmoil in the region, Euro-Mediterranean relations are increasingly intensive and fruitful. The Euro Med Partnership has become the only regional framework for dialogue. Not only between countries, but also between societies, cultures and civilisations.

The Mediterranean basin symbolises the coexistence of cultures and traditions. Over the centuries an exceptional succession of great civilisations have lived – sometimes peacefully and sometimes in conflict – on both sides of the Mediterranean shore. But even at times of war and confrontation, cultural exchange has moved in the *Mare Nostrum* in fields as diverse as trade, languages, religion and the arts.

The dialogue between cultures has been recognised right from the outset as a major component of the Barcelona Process and as a new development in relations between the European Union and Mediterranean Partners. The Social, Cultural, and Human Chapter of the Barcelona Process aims to bring people on both sides of the Mediterranean closer together, to promote their mutual knowledge and understanding and to improve their perception of each other.

These goals have been the target of a wide variety of regional programmes and projects: notably, co-operation in the audio-visual sector, actions to preserve and promote the cultural heritage and exchanges of young people. To give an example in the last years more than 8,000 young people have participated in our Youth Action Programme. In addition, a European programme of higher education exchanges will be extended very soon to students from the Mediterranean Partners.

But if the Barcelona Process is to meet the daunting challenges that face the region further efforts have to be made to bring closer the peoples in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This is why an Action Programme for the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations focussing on youth, education and the media has been endorsed by the 27 members of the Partnership at the Valencia Ministerial Conference in April 2002. At the same conference, on the basis of a proposal from the European Commission, we agreed to the principle of creating a Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote a dialogue of cultures and civilisations

Dialogue between cultures and civilisations has now more than ever, an increasingly crucial role to play in the Mediterranean region as a motor for building a common future in a scenario of growing conflict. It is precisely through this dialogue that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership can become not only a political and co-operation process, but a real partnership of people.

Opposite: Fountain in the King Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca (Morocco)

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: Words into Action

"The participants recognise that the traditions of culture and civilisation throughout the Mediterranean region, and dialogue between these cultures and exchanges at human, scientific and technological level are an essential factor in bringing people closer, promoting understanding between them and improving their perception of each other."

(Barcelona Declaration, 1995)

IN NOVEMBER 1995, Foreign Ministers from the European Union (EU) and its Mediterranean neighbours met in Barcelona to draw up a declaration that would form the basis of an ambitious new partnership between the European Union and the twelve countries and territories on the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

The aim of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was simple: to turn the entire Mediterranean into a region of peace and shared prosperity. The Barcelona Declaration also committed the partners to the progressive establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade zone; but for this to be a realistic goal, it was clear that the Mediterranean Partners would need long-term assistance to ease the difficult transition to modern competitive economies. Programmes offering substantial economic aid from the EU would only be part of the story. Barcelona's masterstroke was to give the green light to a wide-ranging social and cultural partnership that would give the people in Europe and the southern Mediterranean a better understanding of one another. The vision was to transform the entire Mediterranean basin into an exchange zone in which cultural and ethnic stereotyping would wither on the vine of mutual respect. This has prompted partnerships in many spheres including youth exchanges, media, and heritage, together with programmes promoting free and democratic society. Since the first programmes began in 1998, this dialogue has contributed to a new sense of shared purpose among the southern Mediterranean countries and their partners in Europe.

A Firm Commitment

By adopting the Barcelona Declaration, the European Union made a firm commitment to its Mediterranean neighbours. Barcelona was therefore very significant for southern Mediterranean countries, since it proved that Europe had listened to their appeals for a closer relationship. It also reflected the need to engage with a political reality dominated by continued conflict in the Middle East and tension between the great monotheistic faiths of the region.

The Barcelona Declaration was based on two rationales: one geo-strategic; the other psychological. It was obvious the European Union couldn't pursue its ideal of integration with the Mediterranean Partners unless it also projected stability throughout the region. At the same time, Europe was long established as a major player in international affairs and needed to move beyond the old donor-beneficiary paradigm. The Barcelona Process created a new model for international exchange that makes hands-on collaboration the key to greater mutual respect and understanding between nations.



Above and opposite: Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations means opening doors that create equal opportunities for people in all 27 Euro-Mediterranean Partners.



The Barcelona Declaration has spawned an active and multi-layered partnership between the 15 countries of the European Union and the 12 Mediterranean partners: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey

Equal Stakes

To give substance to the new egalitarian relationship between north and south, the word ‘partner’ replaced old labels like ‘developing’ or ‘third’ world. This means the key themes of the Barcelona Process are discussed, negotiated and agreed by all 27 Partners. The profusion of ministerial conferences and specialist meetings is proof that dialogue is flourishing in areas where, until recently, there was almost none. However, the real achievement of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is the way it engages people at every level of political, economic, and social and cultural life.

Like a triptych, the Barcelona Process needs three panels to illustrate its different chapters:

A dialogue about politics and security that seeks to create a climate of stability, and promote democracy and human rights throughout the region.

A financial and economic dialogue and co-operation that aims to increase the economic well-being of the partner countries and create a free trade zone by 2010.

A social, cultural and human dialogue that encourages better mutual understanding and strengthens links within civil society.

The tripartite approach means that cultural dialogue is no longer the haphazard result of one-off projects developed between the EU and each Mediterranean Partner. Thanks to Barcelona, a growing number of people from different traditions now have the chance to work together on issues of common concern, and deepen their knowledge of one another in the process. Its success is confirmed by the fact that human, scientific and technical dialogues started by Barcelona have taken root.

Funding

All the programmes that originated in Barcelona are funded through the European Union’s ‘MEDA’ Programme, which has earmarked more than € 10 billion to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership over a ten-year period. More than 85 percent of MEDA funds are channelled to bilateral programmes tailored to the particular needs of each recipient country and focus on cushioning economic transition and the social impact of structural adjustment programmes. The remainder goes to regional programmes under Barcelona’s three chapter headings: Political and Security; Economic and Financial; Social and Cultural.

Top: The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership gives equal voice to northern and southern Mediterranean countries.

Above: Social and cultural dialogue helps different peoples appreciate the part that traditions play in moulding regional identity.



A Blue Print for Dialogue

Barcelona gave priority to the following themes:

- The importance of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue.
- The key role that the media can play in improving mutual knowledge and understanding among different cultures.
- The development of human resources through cultural activities such as language learning and cultural exchanges, as well as educational and heritage related programmes that highlight cultural identities.
- The fundamental contribution that civil society organisations can make towards bringing people closer together.
- The necessity to reinforce or introduce decentralised forms of cooperation that encourage dialogue at the very heart of civil society, and through key players in the world of culture.
- The belief in the value of exchanges between young people.

Recipe for Change

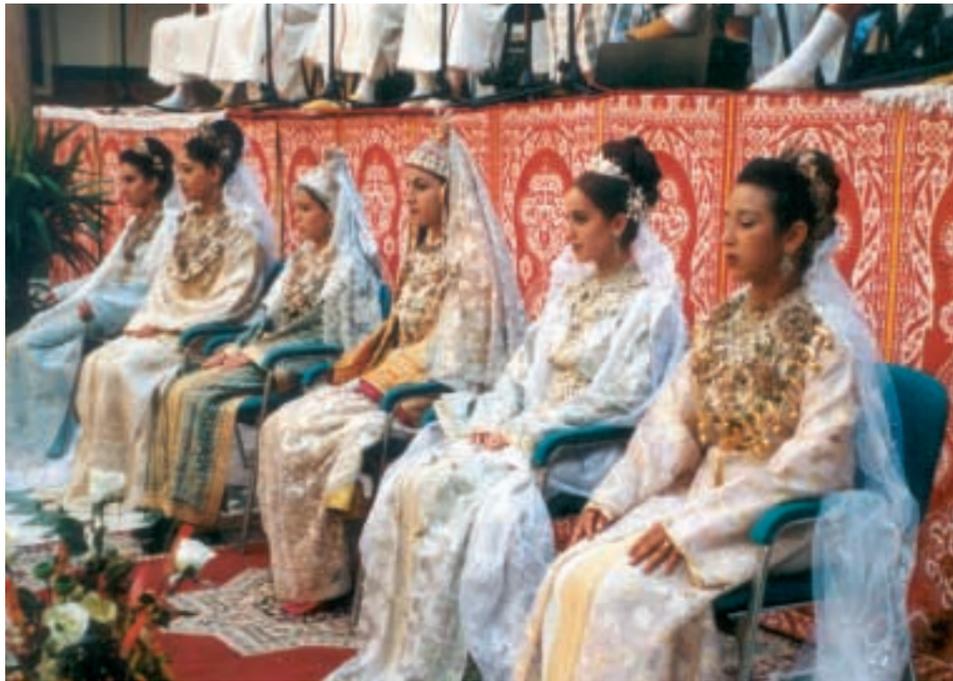
Barcelona’s vision was translated into actions through different bilateral and regional programmes, more specifically to **Euromed Heritage**, **Euromed Youth**, and **Euromed Audiovisual** programmes. Other measures reinforce the strength of democratic and civil institutions, including the **Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum**, the **Euro-Mediterranean Information Society Initiative (EUMEDIS)**, the **Human Rights and Democracy Initiative** as well as a growing number of cultural and other activities organised in co-ordination with the European Commission delegations in the Mediterranean countries: from children’s opera to journalist training. Barcelona marked a fresh start, a realisation that long-term partnerships between the EU and its southern neighbours can only thrive if they are formed between democratic societies that respect each other’s identities. The ultimate goal of cultural cooperation is not to change how people live, but to use dialogue and collaborative projects to help different peoples *understand* each other. Given the tension on the world stage, Barcelona’s call for understanding between cultures and civilisations is more urgent than ever.



Above: Barcelona’s programmes will reduce mutual prejudice and ignorance between north and south by revealing the needs and values shared by people throughout the Partners.

Sharing Cultural Heritage: Euromed Heritage

10



Left: In many ways, traditions remain stronger in southern countries than they do in the north. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership encourages modernisation, but also works to preserve cultural identities.



Left: For centuries, people living in harsh desert communities survived thanks to their sense of community. Communal food stores, or Qsurs, like this one in Tunisia, are proof of these traditions.

The Mediterranean is the cradle of many civilisations. Its historic settlements and archaeological sites as well as its customs and traditional craft skills, form a legacy that is shared by every country on its shores. Since this unique cultural endowment is a resource under threat and a shared responsibility, Euromed Heritage supports Mediterranean countries in their efforts to promote and care for their heritage. A regional programme within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Euromed Heritage is helping 27 European and Mediterranean countries to transform their cultural capital into a social and economic asset, and to appreciate their common interests.

IN APRIL 1996, WITHIN FIVE MONTHS of the Barcelona Declaration, Ministers of Culture from all the partner countries met in Bologna to outline a strategy for a regional programme on cultural heritage. This would not only help conserve national patrimonies by giving local people the necessary skills, it would also encourage people on both sides of the Mediterranean to appreciate their neighbours' cultures and civilisations.

Euromed Heritage I, the first programme to be funded through the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, was launched at a meeting in Rhodes in September 1998. Sixteen projects were chosen. With total European Union funds of € 17 million, its four priorities were to:

- **Highlight Mediterranean heritage** by creating an inventory that begins to document its composition and extent, promoting high quality tourism, and encouraging networking between museums and other cultural institutions.
- **Exchange know-how** and technical assistance, especially in the field of heritage conservation and institutional support.
- **Promote knowledge** about heritage among the public and decision makers, and create a compendium of the know-how and techniques used in Mediterranean heritage.
- **Offer training** in heritage-related skills and professions.

Euromed Heritage I ran from 1998 until 2002. It involved most countries in the EU and all the Mediterranean Partners. Since it was less concerned with preserving the fabric of the past than creating networks between people with the skills to do so in the future, training and expert collaboration were at its heart. Heritage specialists travelled around the Mediterranean to exchange ideas and expertise. Over time, projects such as *PISA* (which analysed how integrated management could both enhance archaeological sites and sustain local economic activity) will help develop the infrastructure that allows each country to conserve its own heritage in the best possible way.

Other projects, such as the *Maghreb Heritage Training Courses*, gave heritage workers in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia skills needed to conserve the historic built environment. *CORPUS* made an inventory of vernacular buildings throughout the Mediterranean, and created a manual of techniques for their conservation.

Satellite mapping and aerial photography were combined by *IPAMED* to create a high-tech inventory that reveals the greatest threat to Tunisia's archaeological heritage comes from human



Above: Euromed Heritage I gave heritage workers the chance to acquire the traditional skills necessary for the conservation of historic buildings and structures.

11



Above: *Manumed* created inventories of small and lesser known libraries in north Africa and the Near East. It also trained local people in document conservation.

Getting in the Picture: Euromed Audiovisual

activity. Another hugely ambitious project, *Manumed*, has started to catalogue and preserve ancient manuscripts in small libraries throughout North Africa and the Near East. It has also organised expert international seminars and specialist training for document conservators and project managers. Other projects put heritage in the public eye: a travelling exhibition *Saving Cultural Heritage* was seen in Germany and Algeria, Cyprus, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, drawing attention to the serious conservation issues facing the Mediterranean. *Museum with No Frontiers* produced twelve superb catalogue-guidebooks that highlight jewels of Islamic art and architecture throughout the Mediterranean. But some heritage has no physical legacy. *Les Fêtes du Soleil (Sun Festivals)* recorded the sights and sounds of traditional festivals, and investigated the roots of the Mediterranean's fascinating intangible culture. All these projects have created informal specialist networks that will enhance conservation activities and strengthen relationships throughout the Partnership: both north-south and south-south.

Building on the achievements of the first round of heritage projects, **Euromed Heritage II** was launched in 2001. With funding increased to € 30 million, it places even greater emphasis on preserving the knowledge and immaterial culture that makes the Mediterranean unique. The new projects deal with the Mediterranean's maritime and musical heritage, as well as its regional traditions of food and craft. Once again, wherever possible, the wish is to make these cultures economically sustainable, and use them to promote a sense of regional pride and identity.

(For further information please refer to the companion publication 'Euromed Heritage – Creating a Future that Cares for the Past' Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2002. ISBN 92-894-4378-2. Contact European Commission: e.mail: europeaid-euromedheritage@cec.eu.int).

12

EUROMED AUDIOVISUAL was conceived in late 1997 when Euro-Mediterranean government experts met in Thessaloniki to define areas of cooperation in the audio-visual sector. The first Euromed Audiovisual Programme got under way in 2000 with six projects and an EU grant of € 20 million. Its focus is the preservation, production and distribution of documentaries and feature films that capture the essence of people's lives and culture.

Euromed Audiovisual therefore created ways of helping worthwhile projects reach the screen and find an audience. It also has an important commercial dimension since it facilitates trade and joint projects between European and south Mediterranean countries. Cooperation ranges from the transfer of expertise and technology to co-productions between independent film production companies.

The *CapMed* project preserves the Mediterranean's TV heritage by transferring archives held on obsolete formats to future-proof digital systems. Some 5,000 films will be copied, and a new Internet-based reference database will make it easier for programme makers to access these archives.

The purpose of *Cinema Med* is to introduce audiences to films they might not otherwise see. In 2001, more than 60,000 people in seven European cities (plus Amman, Jordan) attended a travelling festival that showed some of the best Arab Mediterranean films. In addition, Cinema Med highlights the wealth of South Mediterranean cinema archives, among others through a retrospective of work by the director Salah Abu Seif, the uncontested genius of Egyptian cinema. A script-writing workshop makes up the project's third area of activity.

The idea behind the TV documentary series *Elles... aux abords de l'an 2000*, a **Euromed Audiovisual** project which gathers film makers from the Mediterranean Partner Countries and Europe, is to profile Mediterranean Arab women who made their mark on society through creative talent or political involvement. Subjects include pioneering female Egyptian film actresses, producers and directors such as Aziza Amir and actress-turned-journalist Rose elYoussef.

Euromédiatoon made it possible to set up a new cartoon studio in Tunis which is now producing *Viva Carthago*, a TV series of cartoons for children about the legendary characters who dominated Mediterranean history from the foundation of Carthage in the 10th century BC until the 7th century AD. With a large team of production staff and storyboard artists, *Viva Carthago* should help lay the foundations of a new regional industry that lasts well beyond the end of the project; while the images brought to light and created by the projects dealing with history and audio-visual archives will refresh people's memories, and give young people a fuller sense of the past.

Medea offers development training and funds for films about Mediterranean life and culture. Since pre-production is the crucial stage of any project, help from experts and partial funding of initial costs



Above: Euromed Audiovisual helps people on both sides of the Mediterranean see films that reveal their imagination as well as the reality of life.

13



Above: Stars like Assia Dagher and Ahmed Galal were at the centre of Egyptian cinema industry in *Bewitching Eyes*.

Preparing Future Generations for Dialogue: Euromed Youth Programme



can make all the difference. Out of hundreds of submissions, 75 audio-visual projects have been selected to benefit from this support.

Europa Cinemas supports the distribution and exhibition throughout the Mediterranean and the EU of new films produced by the 27 partners. Given Hollywood's domination of cinema distribution, few if any European movies would be shown in the Mediterranean Partners without *Europa Cinemas*. It also diminishes the financial risk for distributors by funding promotional material and paying up to half the cost of dubbing or subtitling.

The final element of **Euromed Audiovisual** is dialogue through effective networking. Each year it holds a conference and workshops for film producers and distributors, broadcast executives and other audio-visual professionals (Rabat, September 2000; Seville, July 2001; Cairo, October 2002). These have created useful links between the EU and southern Mediterranean countries, and also established promising 'south-south' partnerships – including some between Palestinian and Israeli film makers.



Top: Young storyboard artist at work on *Viva Carthago*.

Above: Script workshop for *Viva Carthago*. A major co-production for TV that will bring Mediterranean history alive for children.

Right: Crew filming an episode of *Elles aux abords de l'an 2000*. The film makers working on this series of 12 documentaries about pioneer Arab women in different fields.

'Youth exchanges should be the means to prepare future generations for a closer co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean partners.' (Barcelona Declaration, 1995)

PERHAPS THE MOST CRUCIAL arena for dialogue between cultures and civilisations involves young people. It is easy to see why: there are nearly 96 million young people between 15 and 24 in the Euro-Mediterranean region of which 49 million live in the partner countries, forming more than 20% of the population. More obviously, today's youth will be the protagonists of tomorrow.

In June 1996 a conference was held in Amman to set objectives for a Youth Programme. Educationalists and non-governmental organisation (NGO) representatives had taken their cue from Barcelona and recommended that educational exchanges should form its core since they give young people a uniquely personal and powerful experience of other cultures. They also recommended two further actions: voluntary service, and support measures that stimulate active citizenship within local communities.

Euromed Youth I began in 1999. Since then, more than 400 different projects have involved thousands of young people between the ages of 15 and 25. The programme has also helped establish international and local connections between youth associations and NGOs throughout the 27 Partners. The total budget for the first round of projects was € 9.7 million. Its success has led to a second round of projects. Running from 2002 until 2004, **Euromed Youth II** has a budget of € 14 million; the challenge lies in devising a programme that is cost effective and also has the potential to enlighten millions of young lives.

The reasoning behind the **Euromed Youth** is simple: ignorance breeds intolerance, racism and xenophobia. Young people are like sponges, quickly absorbing whatever ideas and opinions (positive or negative) they encounter. Travel and education broaden the mind, and are therefore the best antidotes to ignorance and prejudice. The problems of providing education that allows school leavers to compete in a fast-changing high tech world are so great that international aid organisations often despair and turn their attention to less daunting priorities. Against this backdrop, the only practical response for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was 'homeopathic': the hope that a minute remedy has a disproportionate benefit. *The Youth Exchange Action* has enabled more than 8,000 young people (evenly split between EU and non EU countries) to meet their peers from other countries and cultures. This is a significant number, but a mere drop in an ocean teeming with countless million young lives. Yet the multiplier effect of young people telling others about their experiences and having their own contacts abroad should eventually reach a kind of critical mass, and can only benefit the cause of mutual understanding. The formula for exchanges requires that groups of young people from at least four different countries (half from the EU half from the partner countries) spend between a week and three weeks together. Each exchange has a specific theme and schedule of workshops and involves anything from 16 to 60 young people.



Participants on Youth Exchanges get the chance to travel, spend a few weeks working closely with people from other cultures and form friendships that can open new perspectives on life.



Creating Partnerships



16 Youth exchanges are held throughout the 27 Euro-Mediterranean Partners. This one was held in the UK.

Example of a youth exchange: CEGAS

The Committee for Educational Guidance for Arab Students promotes higher education for the Arab Palestinian minority in Israel. It sponsored an exchange entitled *Minorities and Democracy in Europe and Israel* that brought young people to Israel from Italy, Germany, Palestinian Authority and Israel to discuss the situation of minorities in a European/Middle East context. It not only gave young people the chance to engage with theoretical issues, but also gave them an opportunity to experience life in different Arab villages in Israel.

In a similar way to the Partnership's work on cultural heritage and the media, **Euromed Youth** created a reliable framework for international cooperation. This was not easy as the kind of youth programmes and concepts common in EU Member states (such as cross-culture learning, peer education and informal education) are almost unknown in the southern Mediterranean, where youth organisations are rare. To kick-start the programme, national co-ordinators were appointed in each partner country in order to build connections with local NGOs and informal civil society groups. Since co-ordinators also need to liaise with the European Union and youth coordinators in other partners, they are given special training through the *Support for Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities (SALTO)* initiative. **Euromed Youth II** gives youth project promoters extra funds so that they can devise more ambitious national action plans, and network actively with youth workers and NGOs in their own countries.

Because national coordinators work with NGOs and directly with individuals, they are well placed to build links with young people from deprived families. Giving young people the opportunity for a youth exchange or a voluntary service project (which allows a young person to be a volunteer in another country for anything up to a year working on a wide range of projects from the arts to the care of old people) can literally transform their lives. Perhaps the most striking feature of **Euromed Youth** is the way it adopts ideas from the young people. A deliberately high selection ratio means that around half the proposals submitted are accepted, and this encourages young people to get involved, think about the world they live in, and come up with their own ideas.

SINCE THE BARCELONA CONFERENCE, the European Union has committed more than € 130 million on programmes supporting civil society in the Mediterranean region. Although cultural collaboration helps people in the partners countries and territories value their own traditions and those of their neighbours, Barcelona acknowledge that the long-term future of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership required all its members to become genuine democracies that respect human rights. This idea drives several initiatives.

The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum was born in 1998. It's a precocious child, determined that democratic institutions be guaranteed throughout the region. Since 2001, it holds annual meetings at which parliamentarians from the Partners meet to debate issues arising from the 'Barcelona Process.' Recent topics include migration and exchanges between people and cultures.

The **Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMesCo)** was set up in 1996 to form a network between some 37 foreign policy institutes throughout the 27 Partners. Between 2001 and 2003, it is concentrating on themes that require urgent strategic debate. In a world echoing with the terrorist threat, this includes dialogue on political and security issues within the Partnership, and the implications of adopting a common foreign and security policy. Other threads address sub-regional cooperation and bilateral links between the Partners.

The European Union spends € 100 million each year on the **European Initiative for Democratisation and Human Rights (EIDHR)**, and Barcelona took a major step when it made elements of EU assistance to Partners dependent on progress towards full and free democracy. One *EIDHR* programme promotes independent journalism throughout the southern Mediterranean, targeting journalists from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Morocco and Tunisia. Another gives regional assistance to NGOs in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Syria through practical training in computer skills, advocacy, communication and management skills. It also trains young journalists to focus on specific issues relevant to their society such as children, women's rights, disability, and the environment.

It's impossible to ignore the reality of the Middle East, or the need to interrupt some projects. Nevertheless, the new **EU Partnership for Peace** builds on work started in 1995. Since then, the EU has committed more than € 76 million on regional infrastructure including water projects in Jordan and regional studies about transport, planning and power supply. In collaboration with the World Bank, the Regional Desertification Control Initiative addresses one of the biggest environmental issues. The latest call for proposals seeks to enhance the effectiveness of the media and initiate practical co-operation in education, culture, health and science.

Other, more focussed, activities also form part of the canvas. The **Euro-Arab Management School (EAMS)** is a joint project between the European Commission and the League of Arab States. Appropriately based in Granada, Spain, it was established in 1995 and offers high-level training that helps encourage business between Arab and European companies. As the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership develops, its alumni will be in great demand.



17 Above: The European Commission stages travelling exhibitions to communicate the aims of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.



Above: The Euro-Arab Management School ensures young high-flyers have the skills to make the most of future north-south business opportunities.

The **Malta Seminars** take place every six months, and offer young diplomats from Euro-Mediterranean Partners the chance to attend briefings, training workshops and discussions on the three chapters of the Barcelona Process. It's hard to exaggerate the importance of this kind of contact or the informal networks they spawn, especially when they are between future leaders in their fields.

Avoiding the Digital Divide (EUMEDIS)

In order to help close the informational and technological gap between the EU and its Mediterranean partners, the **Euro-Mediterranean Information Society (EUMEDIS)** programme was launched in 1999 and has since committed € 65 million. It helps Partners take advantage of opportunities offered by applying information technology in five priority areas: education, e-commerce and economic cooperation, healthcare networks, multi-media access to cultural heritage and tourism, and lastly, industry and innovation. Twenty-three projects have been selected for grants helping hospitals and medical research institutes, public and private research centres, chambers of commerce, as well as museums and non governmental organisations that deal with cultural heritage and promote tourism in the Mediterranean region. As a secondary focus, *EUMEDIS* will be invaluable to members of the public concerned with these issues. It's the result of considerable labour: in order to develop a definitive action plan, more than 1,500 experts from the whole region attended a dozen thematic workshops and conferences in Euro-Mediterranean countries. High tech solutions like tele-diagnosis have great potential benefits for such a vast geographic area, since remote populations will have access to the best advice. *EUMEDIS* could ultimately provide the building blocks of a Euro-Mediterranean 'electronic nervous system' that responds to the needs and actions of individuals and groups regardless of wealth, location, ethnicity, gender, or geographic isolation.



Above: Use of broadband and satellite technology will give each region of the Mediterranean equal access to information and learning.

The Role of the Delegations

Since 1995, the Delegations of the European Commission in the twelve Mediterranean Partners have run their own programmes of activities contributing at encouraging the dialogue between cultures and civilisations. The Delegations are a vital point of contact for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Each has considerable autonomy and gives the Commission the ability to respond to local needs and interests, but in a way that complements regional programmes, such as **Euromed Heritage** and **Euromed Audiovisual**.

Throughout the Mediterranean, the Delegations contribute to a wide range of information and communication activities that encourage free debate and objective news reporting. Some of their activities in this field have been an international symposium in Turkey that examined the way ethnic minorities and immigrants are portrayed on European television, a short training course for press syndicate journalists in Egypt, and a number of information tools (newsletters, posters, annual reports, etc.) produced by all the Delegations.

They also support cultural activities, which include, among others, festivals of European Cinema in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Among projects they help with away from the screen, there's an annual jazz festival in Morocco that brings together musicians from north and south of the Mediterranean and, in 2002, the Delegation in Israel contributed substantially to a Jewish-Arab production of "Romeo and Juliet", that allowed both communities to admire together this classic opera.



Above: A dance festival is one of many cultural events supported by the Delegation of the European Commission in Israel.

Where Next?

THE EUROPEAN UNION has reached a crossroads, where its international presence requires it to respond to the challenges and responsibilities it faces. This was acknowledged by the meeting of Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers in Valencia in April 2002, where an action plan was devised to reinvigorate the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations.

The **Valencia Action Plan** re-emphasised the special priority given to youth, education and the media, since these touch so many lives. It also considered the creation of a **Euro-Mediterranean Foundation to promote dialogue between cultures and civilisations and to strengthen in this respect the Barcelona Process**.

Ministers agreed to extend the *Netd@ys*⁽¹⁾ and *eSchola*⁽²⁾ programmes to Mediterranean Partners. These highly successful web-based educational systems are greatly appreciated by parents and children throughout Europe. They encourage greater use of new technologies and promote activities such as school twinning, joint projects and teacher exchanges.

It was also confirmed that the *Tempus*⁽³⁾ programme would be introduced to the Mediterranean Partners. With a budget of € 43 millions, it will encourage co-operation among universities on both shores of the Mediterranean by improving their management, updating their syllabuses and promoting teacher training and exchanges.

One of the significant steps at Valencia was the recognition of the vital role the media can play in the dialogue between European and Mediterranean cultures. This feeling had already been expressed at a meeting of Foreign Ministers in Brussels in November 2001, but Valencia endorsed this idea with the decision to launch an Information and Communication programme. This will strengthen the visibility of the Barcelona Process and related issues in the Mediterranean media (TV, radio, written press). To put its objectives in focus, an expert seminar *Euromed Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations: The Role of the Media*, was held in Vienna in June 2002. The keynote speech was given by Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, an Egyptian and former UN Secretary General. He had no doubts about the urgent need for Europe to strengthen its dialogue with its southern neighbours.

"Southern and Northern Mediterranean countries don't just have a shared history and destiny. They are also linked by geography and space. And like it or not... the European Union won't escape the problems caused by the incredible demographic growth of the southern countries... In 2050, southern Mediterranean countries will number 305 million inhabitants, or 129 millions more than there are today, and will have practically caught up with the European countries, which, with a 17 percent reduction in their population, will number 339 million people.

For Southern Mediterranean countries this means the difficulty of social integration for a population that keeps on growing, and the impossibility for these populations of sharing their land harmoniously in



Above: The Valencia conference breathed new urgency into the Barcelona Process and brought its priorities into focus.



Above: The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is taking off, and helping its members work together in ways they haven't been possible before.

(1) <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/netdays/index.html>

(2) http://www.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/en/index_eschola2002.cfm

(3) <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/tempus/home.html>



20

Above: Thanks to the Barcelona Process, the door to dialogue is opening.

so far as the major part of these countries are effectively made up of desert. This therefore is the message, of an inevitable interdependence and compulsory solidarity, between the countries of the North and South of the Mediterranean, that means we must, from today, engage public opinion on both shores. But we must also do this in such a way that this geopolitical interdependence is echoed by a dialogue between cultures... But this wish will not truly bear fruit unless it is underpinned by public opinion, and therefore explained and relayed by all medias.”

BOUTROS BOUTROS GHALI, Vienna, 3 June 2002 ⁽¹⁾

Partnership in the Sun

Beguiled by its beauty and lulled by the sound of its waves, the Mediterranean inspires the kind of daydreams that transport us back to antiquity. They reveal the Mediterranean to be the cradle of civilisations: an ultramarine highway that, for thousands of years, allowed all manner of peoples to trade freely and exchange ideas.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership seeks to rediscover the Mediterranean’s ancient role as a commercial and cultural melting pot for all the countries around its shores. This means they must become peaceful, free, democratic, wealth creating societies whose people understand and respect each other. The only recipe for that is dialogue.

(1) 'Euro-Med Dialogue between Cultures and Civilisations: the Role of the Media'. Proceedings of the International Expert Seminar, held in Vienna on 3 June 2002. Favorita Papers special edition. Vienna: Diplomatic Academy, 2002. ISBN 3-902021-30-6.

Further information about the Barcelona Process is available from:

European Commission
EuropeAid Co-operation Office DG
South Mediterranean, Near and Middle East Directorate
Centralised Operations for the Mediterranean
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Fax: +32-2-295.56.65
E-mail: europeaid-euromedinfo@cec.eu.int
http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/regional_en.htm

European Commission
External Relations DG
Middle East, South Mediterranean Directorate
Barcelona Process, and Gulf Countries, Iran, Iraq and Yemen
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Fax: +32-2-296.66.53
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/index.htm

Euromed Audiovisual Projects

EUROMEDIATOON – VIVA CARTHAGO

EU Grant: €3.988,000
Co-ordinator:
 Ahmed B. E. Attia, Director
 Cinééléfilms (Tunisia),
 16 rue Ali Bach Hamba, 1000 Tunis – Tunisia
Tel: +216-1-343684 / +216-1-353285
Fax: +216-1-351688
E-mail: attiactf@gnet.tn
Other countries: Belgium, France, Italy, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey.
Objective: Co-production of a series of 26 cartoon episodes each about the legendary characters who have made the history of the Mediterranean since the foundation of Carthage in the 10th century before Christ until the 7th century AD.

EUROPA CINEMAS

EU Grant: €4,000,000
Co-ordinator:
 Claude-Eric Poiroux, Director General
 Europa Cinémas (France),
 54 rue Beaubourg,
 75003 Paris – France,
Tel: +33-1-42715370
Fax: +33-1-42714755
E-mail: europacinema@magic.fr
<http://www.europa-cinemas.org>
Other countries: EU plus Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey, Cyprus.
Objective: Support fund for the distribution and circulation of European and Mediterranean films in the Mediterranean Partners and Mediterranean films in the EU.

CAPMED

EU Grant: €3,825,000
Co-ordinator:
 Emmanuel Hoog, President
Contact:
 Mrs Nancy Angel
 Institut National de l’Audiovisuel (France),
 Rue de la Charité, 2,
 13002 Marseille – France
Tel: +33-1-49832688 / +33-4-91143340
Fax: +33-4-91143345
E-mail: Nangel@ina.fr
<http://www.cap-med.net>
Other countries: Greece, Italy, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey.
Objective: Preservation and restoration of TV archives in the Mediterranean Partners and the creation of a reference database of these archives.

ELLES... AUX ABORDS DE L’AN 2000

EU Grant: €1,200,000
Co-ordinator:
 Youssef Chahine, Director
Contact:
 Mrs Marianne Khoury
 MISR International Films (Egypt),
 35 Champollion street,
 11511 Cairo – Egypt
Tel: +20-2-5788124 / +20-2-5788038
Fax: +20-2-5788033
E-mail: mifl@starnet.com.eg
Other countries: Denmark, France, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia (film directors from other Mediterranean Partners could join).
Objective: Co-production of a 12 part TV documentary series about at least 24 prominent Mediterranean Arab women distinguished by their leading roles in their societies due to their artistic or literary talent, or to their feminist political commitment.

CINEMA MED

EU Grant: €1,000,000
Co-ordinator:
 Michele Capasso, Director
 Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo (Italy),
 Via Depretis, 130, 80 133 Napoli-Italy
Tel: +39-81-5523033
Fax: +39-81-4203273
E-mail: mediterraneo@mbx.idn.it
<http://www.cinemamed.org>
<http://www.medlab.org>
Other countries: France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia.
Objective: 1) Promotion of Mediterranean Partners’ films through travelling festival devoted to Arab and non-Arab cinematography.
 2) Organisation of training on theory and practice of script writing.
 3) Restoration of films and organisation of a retrospective devoted to Salah Abu Seif, an Egyptian filmmaker.

MEDEA

EU Grant: €4,000,000
Co-ordinator:
 Elena Angulo Aramburu, Director
Contact:
 Mrs. Alicia Gallardo
 Empresa Pública de Gestión de Programas Culturales.
 C/ Santa Teresa no.8, 41004 Seville – Spain
Tel: +34-954-221272
Fax: +34-955-037265
E-mail: programamedea@epgpc.com
<http://www.programamedea.com>
Other countries: France, Netherlands, Spain, Israel, Morocco.
Objective: Support mechanism for the development (pre-production) phase of 75 co-productions (documentaries and fiction films) plus training.

21

EUROMED YOUTH: CONTACTS**Web:**

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth.html>

European Commission DG Education & Culture,

Youth Unit D1,
Rue van Maerlant 2
1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: + 32 2 299 86 75

Fax: + 32 2 299 40 38

Email: EAC-EUROMEDYOUTH@cec.eu.int

SALTO: www.salto-youth.net

Algeria:

Noureddine Si-bachir
Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports
Rue Mohamed Belouizdad

Place du 1er mai

6000 Alger-Algerie

Tel/Fax: + 213 2 671 757

Email: sibachir2000@yahoo.fr

Austria:

Nationalagentur Jugend na Youth
Euro-tech Management

Renngasse 10

A – 1010 Wien

Tel: + 43 1 532 7997 220

Fax: + 43 1 532 7997 222

Email: office@youth4europe.at

Belgium:

Bureau International Jeunesse (B.I.J)

Rue du commerce, 20-22

B – 1000 Brussels

Tel: + 32 2 227 52 75

Fax: + 32 2 218 81 08

Email: ipe@cfwg.be

Sve@fwb.be

Cyprus:

M. Yannis Yiannakis

National Agency of Cyprus

41 Thermistokli Dervi Street,

Office No. 106

CY – 1066 Nicosia

Tel: + 357 2 304801

Fax: + 357 2 760840

Email: neolea@cytanet.com.cy

Denmark:

CIRIUS

Fiolstraede 44

DK – 1171 Copenhagen K

Tel: + 45 33 95 7000

Fax: + 45 33 95 7001

Email: ungdomb@CiriusMail.dk

Egypt:

Ms Gehad Galal

Ministry of Youth

26 July Street – Meet Okba-Giza

Tel: + 202 346 5026

Fax: + 202 346 9025

Email: Egypt euromed@hotmail.com

Finland:

Centre for International Mobility (CIMO)

Hakaniemenkatu 2, PO Box 343

FIN – 00531 Helsinki

Tel: + 358 9 7747 73 05 / 73 40

Fax: + 358 9 7747 70 64

Email: ulla.naskali@cimo.fi

France:

INJEP – Programme Jeunesse

9-11 rue Paul Leplat

F – 78160 Marly-le-Roi

Tel: + 33 1 39 17 27 73

Fax: + 33 1 39 17 27 57

Email: ipe@injep.fr

Germany:

Deutsches Büro beim IJAB e. V.

Heussallee 30

D – 53113 BONN

Tel: +49-228-950.62.20

Fax: +49-228-950.62.22

Email: jfe@jfeemail.de

Greece:

General Secretariat for Youth

Hellenic National Agency

417 Archarnon Street

GR – 11143 Athens

Tel: + 30 10 253 13 49/2312

Fax: + 30 10 253 14 20/1879

Email: youth@neagenia.gr

Ireland:

Leargas – The Exchange Bureau

Youth Work Service

189-193 Parnell Street

IRL – Dublin 1

Tel: + 353 1 873 14 11

Fax: + 353 1 873 13 16

Email: youth@leargas.ie

Israel:

Mr David Krausz

The Israel Youth Exchange Council

157 Yigal Allon Street

Tel Aviv 67433 – Israel

Tel: + 972 3 696 9390

Fax: + 972 3 696 9382

Email: david@youthex.co.il

Italy:

Agenzia Nazionale Italiana Gioventu

Via Fornovo 8

I – 00192 Roma

Tel: + 39 06 3675 4433

Fax: + 39 06 3675 4527

Email: agenzia@gioventu.it

Jordan:

Ms Sahar Al Fayez

Ministry of Youth and Sports

PO Box 950, Amman, 11118 Jordan

Tel: + 962 6 5679774

Fax: + 962 6 5607598

Email: fayzsahar@hotmail.com

Lebanon:

Ms Elisa Aslanian

Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports

Rue Sami El Solh, Beyrouth

Liban

Tel: + 961 1 424 385

Fax: + 961 1 424 388

Email: Menele@cyberia.net.lb

Fla@cyberia.net.lb

Luxembourg:

Agence Nationale du programme communautaire

'Jeunesse'

26, place de la Gare,

L – 1616 Luxembourg

Tel: + 352 478 6476/82

Fax: + 352 26 483 189

Email: jeunesse-europe@snj.lu

Malta:

Giovanni Buttigieg

Pixxina Nazzjonali

Msida, Malta

Tel: + 356 79701507

Fax: + 356 336 432

Email: maltaeuromed@waldonet.net.mt

Web: www.maltaeuromed.net

Morocco:

M. Yacine Bellarab

Ministère de la Jeunesse

Monsieur Zidouh

Tel: + 212 37 68 12 32 / 33

Fax: + 212 37 68 12 38 /09 72

Email: bellarab@webmail.com

Netherlands:

NIZW International Centre

Catharijnesingel 47

NL – 3501 DD Utrecht

Tel: +31 (0) 30 230 65 50

Fax: +31 (0) 30 230 65 40

Email: europa@nizw.nl

Portugal:

Instituto Portugues da Juventude

Avenida da Liberdade 194-6°

P – 1250 Lisboa

Tel: + 351 21 317 92 00

Fax: + 351 21 317 92 10

Email: ipe.yfe@ipi.pt

Spain:

Instituto Nacional de la Juventud

C/Ortega y Gasset, 71

E – 28006 Madrid

Tel: + 34 91 347 77 40/ 7693/ 7648

Fax: + 34 91 347 76 87

Email: eurespal@mtas.es

Sweden:

Ungdomsstyrelsen/National Board for Youth Affairs

Ringagen 100

S- 11894 Stockholm

Tel: + 46 8 462 53 50 / 53 85

Fax: + 46 8 644 88 54

Email: gordana@ungdomsstyrelsen.se

Syria:

To be appointed

Please contact the EC,

DG Education and Culture

Tunisia:

Mr Taoufik Fathallah

Ministère de la Jeunesse, de l'Enfance et des Sports

89 Avenue Hedi Chaker

Tunis – 1002

Tel: + 216 1 286 697 ext 418

Fax: + 216 1 288 458

Email: taoufik.fathallah@voila.fr

Turkey:

Ms Asuman Goksel

Middle East Technical University

Dept. of Political Science and Public Administration

Inonu Bulvari 06531

Ankara, Turkey

Tel: + 90 312 210 30 24

Fax: + 90 312 210 13 41

Email: agoksel@metu.edu.tr

United Kingdom:

Connect Youth International

The British Council

10 Spring Gardens

UK – SW1A 2BN London

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7389 40 30

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7389 40 33

Email: connectyouth.enquiries@britishcouncil.org

West Bank and Gaza Strip:

To be appointed

Please contact the EC,

DG Education and Culture

For further information about Euromed Heritage please see the EC publication "Euromed Heritage – Creating a Future That Cares for the Past" see pages 12 for details or visit: http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/regional_en.htm contact: europeaid-euromedheritage@cec.eu.int

EUROMED HERITAGE I

(1998-2002: Total budget € 17 million)

The Projects:

CORPUS: Inventory of vernacular buildings throughout the Mediterranean. (€ 1.04 million)

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HERITAGE DAYS:

A study into the feasibility of extending heritage days to southern countries. (€ 146,000)

EXPO 2000: Travelling exhibition on conservation in the Euro-Mediterranean zone. (€ 400,000)

FÊTES DU SOLEIL: Recording the intangible heritage of Mediterranean popular festivals. (€ 646,000)

IPAMED: Computer assisted remote sensing cartography of heritage sites in Tunisia. (€ 1.12 million)

24 MAGHREB HERITAGE COURSES: Conservation training in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. (€ 2.6 million)

MANUMED: Conservation and inventory of small and private libraries in north Africa and Near East. (€ 1.28 million)

MUSEOMED: Training course on modern museum technology and management. (€ 97,000)

MUSEUM WITH NO FRONTIERS: Heritage Trails and catalogues on Islamic architecture. (€ 1.6 million)

PISA: New approaches to conservation and management of archaeological sites. (€ 3.2 million)

RIAS: Forum for technical and policy cooperation in underwater archaeology. (€ 285,000)

SALAMBO: Assessment of skills in decorative crafts used in conservation of historic buildings. (€ 272,000)

UNIMED AUDIT: Analysis and index of heritage legislation and training in the whole region. (€ 324,000)

UNIMED HERIT: Training in the practice and theory of heritage management and conservation. (€ 405,000)

UNIMED SYMPOSIUM: Forum on strategies to protect non-material heritage. (€ 114,000)

EUROMED HERITAGE II

(2002-05: Total budget € 30 million)

The Projects:

DELTA: Integrated regional planning of heritage conservation and management. (€ 2.9 million)

PRODECOM: Support and training for traditional Mediterranean arts and crafts. (€ 0.64 million)

FILIERES INNOVANTES: Promotion of small producers of regional food and textiles. (€ 2.8 million)

LA NAVIGATION DU SAVOIR: Management and care of Mediterranean maritime heritage. (€ 3 million)

MEDITERRANEAN VOICES: Oral and social history of life in the region's great cities. (€ 2.8 million)

MEDIMUSES: Exploration and promotion of classical Mediterranean music. (€ 2.9 million)

TEMPER: Promoting awareness of the Mediterranean's prehistoric heritage. (€ 1.1 million)

PATRIMOINES PARTAGES: Conservation of 19th and 20th century urban architecture. (€ 2.6 million)

IKONOS: Distance learning in conservation of objects, buildings and monuments. (€ 2.5 million)

UNIMED CULTURAL HERITAGE II: Internet site about international heritage issues. (€ 1.5 million)

Euromed Publications

Prepared and distributed regularly by Commission services with a view to keep those interested in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the MEDA Programme informed about the most recent activities:

Euromed Synopsis: a weekly newsletter on the main ongoing and forthcoming activities.

Euromed Report: a publication for quick dissemination of conclusions of major meetings, important communications and other documents, political statements, press releases and summaries of reports.

Euromed Calendar of the Barcelona Process: brings to the attention of the public important information on Euro-Mediterranean meetings.

Euromed Special Feature: a monthly publication that addresses one specific issue in depth.

The Euromed publications are also on the web at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication.htm

If you want to receive the Euromed publications by email, send a request to: europeaid-euromedinfo@cec.eu.int.

Contacts for EC Delegations in Mediterranean Partners can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/link_deleg_en.htm