



Heritage and Decentralised Cooperation



**SITES &
-CITES**
REMARQUABLES
FRANCE

Heritage and Decentralised Cooperation



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Heritage & international cooperation, the actions of Sites & Cités Remarquables de France

Since its creation in 2000, Sites & Cités Remarquables has been engaged in international exchanges.

Implemented through a vast network of French and overseas stakeholders, the work of this organisation focuses on:

1. **Heritage and integrated urban development:** supporting the competencies of local authorities and developing innovative governance structures for the management of heritage-based urban planning.
2. **Heritage and sustainable development:** implementing programmes for built heritage which meet sustainable development requirements, maintain know-how and make use of local materials.
3. **Heritage and cultural tourism:** developing quality procedures for the enhancement of local heritage in order to generate sustainable economic benefits at the local level.
4. **Heritage interpretation:** raising awareness among elected representatives and professionals of the importance of including heritage in local development policies and enabling citizens to take ownership of their living environment.

On an international level, Sites & Cités:

- Organises **meetings and discussion days**.
- Holds local **workshops** to share concerns and experience.
- Provides **training** to improve the expertise of professionals and elected representatives in the heritage field.
- Provides assistance **with the development of national networks** to foster exchanges of experience between elected representatives and professionals at the national and international levels.
- Shares experience in the framework of an **International Platform**, which brings together international experts and project managers in the fields of management, protection and enhancement of historic centres.
- Contributes to **pilot operations** in the fields of heritage conservation and enhancement.
- **Forges contacts between international partners and the French Sites & Cités network** for the development of decentralised cooperative projects.

Introduction

HERITAGE AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION

The definition and key issues of heritage, generally interpreted as the range of assets handed down by our predecessors in tangible and intangible forms, have gradually been internationalised. These multiple diverse economic, social, political, environmental and cultural issues are generating growing interest, from both the international community and local, French and foreign authorities.

In particular, this interest has taken the form of widespread international accession to various agreements promoting architectural, landscape and intangible heritage, beginning with the UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972.

Heritage started to become a worldwide watchword in the 2000s, in response to environmental issues, and was the focus of strategies based on the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2015.

This internationalisation of heritage has also been illustrated by the development of international cooperation on this subject. Heritage has now become a field of external relations in its own right, in which we must continue to invest particularly via decentralised cooperation¹.

A FAVOURABLE CONTEXT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DECENTRALISED HERITAGE-BASED COOPERATION

In France, while State involvement remains fundamental, it is on a local level that the links between heritage and regional projects come into play, and all the more so given that local authorities have been entrusted with the conservation and enhancement of numerous heritage assets. This has led to the development of French expertise at the local level.

At the international level, decentralisation has extended the heritage expertise of many local authorities.

At the same time, the international actions of regional authorities have benefited from a reinforced legal framework and additional financial resources.

In this favourable context, many authorities are therefore currently engaging in decentralised cooperation, which provides an opportunity to enlist regional expertise in the framework of a direct partnership between local authorities in France and overseas.

¹ In 2021, the French Atlas of Decentralised Cooperation listed 179 heritage-related cooperative projects. <https://pastel.diplomatie.gouv.fr/cncdext/dyn/public/atlas/accesMonde.html>

For the benefit of their mutual interests, **partner authorities can in this way compare and share their practices in diverse fields of expertise**, and reap multiple benefits.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT SERVING LOCAL ACTION

Engagement on the international scene provides local authorities with a **tremendous opportunity to boost the renown of their regions** in terms of heritage and expertise, and to use this as a powerful source of leverage for local development. Furthermore, when cultural and heritage projects have to be sacrificed due to the budget restrictions of local authorities, **international action can become a source of significant funding**.² **Cooperation also develops opportunities** by broadening the scope of economic, tourist and commercial exchanges among the authorities involved.

As an integral part of a cooperative approach, these exchanges of experience and expertise provide elected representatives and regional agents with an external perspective, enriching their work, causing them to **re-examine their respective practices, and contributing to the development of public policies**.

Lastly, these projects contribute to **the vibrancy of local regions** by involving inhabitants in international projects while raising their awareness of the full extent and diversity of heritage.

² At the international level, since 2014, bilateral and multilateral donors have contributed €15 to €30 million each year to the funding of international technical aid in the heritage field.

A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIONS

In terms of heritage, decentralised cooperation enables the development of heritage governance and the establishment of regulatory or technical methods and tools. These cooperation activities take the form of **exchanges of expertise, the sharing of experience and the implementation of studies and operational actions**, such as the creation of management structures, consultation and support in association with inhabitants, or heritage promotion activities.

The priority is given largely to **developing the expertise of elected representatives, technicians from local authorities and relevant professions** (such as architects, craft-workers, businesses, etc.) via training, partner networking and professional immersion.

The projects vary according to the level and expertise of the authorities involved (municipal, inter-municipal, departmental or regional, etc.).

In this way, heritage-based international cooperation activities concern a variety of sectors, with important implications for tourism, social issues, urban planning, the economy, educational and regional development.

PART 1 - How to set up a heritage-based cooperation project

In order to protect and enhance local heritage, local authorities' interventions encompass a large variety of themes and forms of cooperation.

The examples presented in the third part of this publication highlight several factors that contribute to the success of a decentralised cooperation project, at every stage from the design through to execution and follow-up.

1. A PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS

This diagnosis is essential to any form of partnership and is the product of numerous meetings and analyses. It involves the following steps:

- Evaluating **the heritage asset** and drawing up a joint inventory in order to define a shared vision of the region and the project;
- Identifying the **human resources** involved;
- Identifying **local issues** and the conditions for the viability of the project;
- Studying, conforming to and taking account of **local development plans**, in addition to **national and international programmes** to which the project corresponds;

- Identifying key **local** socio-cultural, historic, urban, ecological, demographic and tourism-related issues, and their interdependencies.
- Highlighting **the issues shared by future partner authorities**, in order to avoid the pitfalls of one-way relationships, and implementing a joint strategy and methodology;
- Assessing the **political will** and existence of **good governance** according to local planning and management systems and the different levels of expertise in terms of heritage policy;
- Understanding the **specificities of local culture**, identifying **the various interdependent sectors** such as town planning, tourism and heritage, and developing a 'common language'.

2. IMPLEMENTING THE PARTNERSHIP

The implementation of the partnership helps to foster **synergies between various stakeholders**, such as ministries, national institutions, local authorities or professional organisations. Through regular meetings of bodies such as steering committees and frequent discussions, the aim is to co-construct **a joint vision of the project** and ensure complementarity between partners.

The implementation of such a partnership requires:

- The mobilisation of **partners' human resources**, after reviewing the existing expertise, in order to identify possible training needs;
- The prioritization of a **vertical or multi-level partnership**: the greater the involvement of different levels of governance, the stronger the project's regional foundations, thus ensuring its longevity;
- An emphasis on **horizontal and multi-actor partnerships**: working with all key social and economic players in the region (universities, museums, organisations, civil society and inhabitants, etc.);
- The identification of sources of **leverage** for the local economy and social dynamics;
- Attention to ensuring the **sustainable management** of heritage, in accordance with the environment and the local population;
- The identification of partners' **local socio-economic initiatives** which can be integrated into the project, in addition to existing tools and expertise that can be used;
- The consolidation of **public-private partnerships**, whether national or international.

The formalisation of the partnership through the drafting and adoption of an agreement is strongly recommended: this agreement will define the responsibilities of each party and ensure financial rigour.

3. IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT

The effectiveness and longevity of the actions provided for in the agreement depend on several factors:

- To enable the acceptance of the project and its results by local inhabitants, **their participation and public consultation must be ensured** at every stage of the process.
- **Establishing links between the short and long term** is also key to guaranteeing the continuity and coherence of the actions carried out, anticipating future needs and ensuring that the project remains relevant over time.
- **Training and exchanges of expertise** are also recommended for each of the activities implemented, to ensure that the various partners possess all the knowledge required to continue the projects and maintain the initial results.

4. ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

From the start of the project, **assessment must be organised**, based on qualitative and quantitative indicators, which will allow for any adjustments of the strategies

conducted or of the fields of cooperation and action that may be required according to changes in situations.

Given that the project focuses on heritage issues, the local authority must also:

- Identify the **allocation of responsibilities and powers** between ministries, institutions and national agencies, as well as between the various levels of local authority;
- Familiarise itself with the country's **legislative and regulatory framework** and existing urban planning and heritage management tools and documents, as well as their associated functional procedures;
- Identify the cultural, financial, technical and human **resources** that can be mobilised;
- Assess the **political will**.

5. COMMUNICATION/EXPLOITATION

At the same time as the aforementioned stages, exploitation activities must be envisaged and a communication plan defined.

Examples of exploitation activities include conferences and/or publications, in order to identify the lessons to be learned from the project – lessons which the partners themselves or other stakeholders working in the same field could apply to future projects. This

is also an opportunity to highlight best practices and contribute to communication actions.

At every stage of the project, **communication should aim to promote the stakeholders**, obtain increased support in any form and develop popular support, while meeting transparency requirements when public funding is involved. Communication can take many forms, such as brochures, inserts, reports in different media, audio-visual tools, social networks, etc.

In addition to the themes and stages mentioned, there are certain fundamental prerequisites and attitudes common to any **cooperation project**:

- A **strong desire for cooperation** on the part of politicians and professional stakeholders;
- Clear, respectful and regular **communication** between the different parties, in addition to a sound **mutual understanding**;
- **Adaptability** and a certain degree of flexibility on the part of stakeholders.

PART 2 – Involvement of stakeholders

1. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS

A. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- **UNESCO** (<https://en.unesco.org/>): UNESCO's role is to develop intellectual and technical cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture. Through its multiple conventions, UNESCO is a frontline stakeholder in the protection, conservation and enhancement of heritage in all its different dimensions.
- **Organization of World Heritage Cities** (www.ovpm.org): the OWHC helps member cities to enhance their management methods, in line with specific requirements linked to the presence of listed World Heritage sites.
- **ICOMOS** (www.icomos.org): ICOMOS is an NGO devoted to the conservation and protection of monuments and sites worldwide. It is UNESCO's official advisory body for cultural world heritage.
- **Blue Shield International** (<https://theblueshield.org>): Network of committees of dedicated individuals across the world that is committed to the protection of the world's cultural property, and is concerned with the protection of heritage, in the event of armed conflict, natural or human-made disaster.

B. EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS

- **Council of Europe** (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/culture-and-heritage>): its actions are based on three pillars: the protection of human rights, the rule of law and democracy – in which heritage plays a key role in promoting the cultural identity of Europe in all its diversity – and intercultural dialogue.
- **Council of Europe cultural routes** (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes>): this programme certifies routes throughout Europe which illustrate the continent's multiple cultures and traditions, and promote their networking.
- **European Union** (https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/culture_en): the EU is engaged in promoting cultural diversity and shared culture and heritage among its 27 Member States, via dedicated programmes and political measures.
- **European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)** (www.eunic.eu): the EUNIC network brings together European institutes engaged in cultural action, to develop a common methodology for the cultural sector, to promote this model and reinforce cultural dialogue within the EU and with its partners.

2. NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS

A. INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

- **French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs** (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>): within the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs, the Delegation for the External Action of Local and Regional Authorities operates in the heritage sector and provides support for decentralised cooperation, as the Department of Culture, Education, Research and Network, embassies and the French cultural network.
- **French Ministry of Culture** (<https://www.culture.gouv.fr/en/>): the World Heritage Task Force and the Under-Directorate of European and Foreign Affairs intervene in the heritage sector, and specifically in the promotion of inter-cultural dialogue and French influence via the country's heritage.

B. REGIONAL AUTHORITY NETWORKS AND RESOURCE CENTRES

Heritage networks

- **Sites & Cités Remarquables de France** (www.sites-cites.fr): this network boasts 300 members, i.e. 2,000 municipalities awarded the 'Cities and Regions of Art and History' or 'Outstanding Heritage Site' accreditation. It conducts international activities relating to the conservation and promotion of historic regions and centres via exchanges, expertise, training and pilot operations.
- **Réseau des Grands Sites de France** (<https://www.grandsitedefrance.com/en/>):

the RGSF is a non-profit organisation bringing together local authorities which handle the management and promotion of emblematic and highly-popular safeguarded landscapes.

- **Fédération des parcs naturels régionaux de France** (<https://www.parcs-naturels-regionaux.fr/en/>): the FPNRF supports, promotes and shares the activities of Regional Natural Parks. It acts on behalf of their interests in association with public policy-makers for the development of rural areas and the conservation of natural areas.
- **Association des biens français du patrimoine mondial** (<http://www.asso-france-patrimoine-mondial.org/en/>): the ABFPM brings together the managers of French UNESCO World Heritage sites with a view to protecting and promoting these assets and fostering cooperation with international sites.
- **Petites Cités de Caractère®** (<https://www.petitescitesdecaractere.com/en/>): this association brings together and provides support for small towns with outstanding heritage that wish to use their heritage as a key development driver.
- **Rempart** (<https://www.rempart.com/en/>): this organisation encompasses 180 local and regional non-profit associations, in addition to 50 partner organisations in 30 overseas countries, all committed to the restoration and promotion of heritage.

- **Vieilles Maisons Françaises** (www.vmfpatrimoine.org): the non-profit group VMF is dedicated to safeguarding and promoting built and landscape heritage. Its Foundation lends support to heritage in danger. The VMF and PAJ magazines showcase the abundance of heritage assets to be found in French regions.
- **Patrimoine sans Frontières** (<http://psf.org/projet/en/>): founded in 1992 with the support of the Ministry of Culture, PSF is an association dedicated to culture and international solidarity. In particular, it renovates cultural assets in direct collaboration with the populations concerned.
- **Maison des Cultures du Monde** (www.maisondesculturesdumonde.org): this association is responsible for the hosting, discovery and promotion of foreign cultures and intangible cultural heritage in France.

Networks for international action

- **Cités Unies France** (<https://cites-unies-france.org/-Cites-unies-France-EN->): CUF places its networks and expertise at the disposal of French regional authorities engaged in international activities on all continents.
- **Association Française du Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe** (www.afccre.org): AFCCRE coordinates twinning and European partnership operations and supports municipal exchange programmes.

- **Agence des Villes et Territoires Méditerranéens** (<http://www.avitem.org/en>): AVITEM is a platform for sharing experiences, expertise and training with a view to promoting urban and regional development in the Mediterranean.
- **Conférence Inter-Régionale Réseaux Régionaux Multi-Acteurs** (coordination@rrma.fr): the RRMA networks, active in 12 French regions, promote the involvement of local French actors in all fields of cooperation and international solidarity.

Networks of elected representatives and local authorities

The majority of local authority networks, whether on a regional, departmental or municipal level, provide support for the international engagement of their members, through lobbying and the mobilisation of partners and expertise. At the international level, CGLU promotes recognition of the role of local government bodies on the international scene.

Professional networks:

Drawing on their specific technical competencies, professional networks foster complementary approaches, the professionalisation of actions and, due to their operational expertise, act as focal points for resources in terms of heritage knowledge and the leadership of partnership projects.

C. INSTITUTES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

As resource centres and breeding grounds for future professionals, universities and schools providing heritage training programmes are key partners for the implementation of international

heritage projects, through heritage-based master's degrees, national schools of architecture, art schools and institutes, etc.

3. MAIN FUNDING BODIES

- **World Bank** (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/home>): The World Bank provides funding to States for eligible projects in the form of low-interest loans, donations, technical assistance and capacity-building support. In this way it supports tangible or intangible heritage and sustainable tourism projects.
- **European Union** (<https://ec.europa.eu/culture/policies/culture-cities-and-regions>): Calls for projects related to numerous EU programmes, including cultural and heritage projects, can help fund cooperation actions within the EU or with EU partner countries: INTERREG, URBACT, LEADER, FEDER, CREATIVE EUROPE, Erasmus +, etc.
- **Regional development banks and agencies**: these multi-lateral institutions, backed by their Member States (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, African Development Bank, etc.) support public investment, for heritage in particular, via grants or low-interest loans, etc.
- **Agence Française de développement** (<https://www.afd.fr/en>): AFD is the key player in French development policy. Along with its various divisions (PROPARCO, FFEM and Expertise France) and its 85 agencies worldwide, it provides support in the form of loans,

donations and technical assistance for high-impact social and environmental projects.

- **French Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs** (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>): this Ministry's Delegation for the External Action of Local and Regional Authorities funds decentralised cooperation between French and overseas local authorities through different types of calls for projects, most of which include cultural and heritage aspects.
- **Other sources of support**: based on the conviction that cultural and natural heritage is a source of leverage for regional development, many other organisations support cooperation projects in this sector:
 - **Local authorities** in the framework of their decentralised cooperation activities;
 - **Multi-lateral organisations**: UNDP, UNESCO, etc.;
 - **National agencies for cooperative development**: GIZ (German cooperation), ENABEL (Belgian cooperation), AECID (Spanish cooperation), USAID (US cooperation), etc.;
 - **Patrons and donors**: based generally in the private sector, these actors, motivated by tax incentives, increasingly contribute to heritage-based cooperation projects. Donations may also be provided by both national and international bodies, such as the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH).

Developing regulations for the protection of the historic centres of Berat and Elbasan (Albania)

French partner: Sites & Cités remarquables de France

Local authority partners: Cities of Elbasan and Berat | Albania

Project duration: Since 2010



AIMS AND ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

In 2010, further to its participation in a task alongside the Albanian Ministry for Culture, Sites & Cités forged a special relationship with the cities of Elbasan and Berat and the decentralised departments of the Ministry for Culture.



Discussions on the heritage of Berat, in 2016

In Berat, a listed UNESCO World Heritage site since 2008, cooperation focuses on:

- The implementation of a working method for the restoration of its vernacular heritage, integrating issues linked to heritage quality and energy efficiency;
- Support for the development of a heritage inventory method;
- Urban growth and the integration of contemporary buildings in the historic centre, more specifically in the buffer zone, in addition to landscape-related considerations.

In Elbasan, 19th and 20th-century architecture form an integral aspect of the historic citadel. Cooperation is three-pronged, based on the knowledge, protection and promotion of its heritage, with the creation of 'heritage interpretation and promotion' and 'heritage urbanism' workshops, which have led to the production of heritage interpretation booklets, in addition to a survey of historic buildings, coupled with considerations on the surrounding areas and the urban landscape of the citadel.

In both cities, alongside fact-finding missions, the organisation of seminars and visits from French professionals or elected representatives has helped to boost the projects, partnerships and links between professionals and politicians of the two Albanian local authorities.

Both authorities form part of the 'Knowledge, conservation and enhancement of the historic centres of Albania and the North Macedonian Republic' project, led in 2020 and 2021 with support from the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs.



Presentation of heritage interpretation booklets in Elbasan, 2014

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Project total: €30,000 per year

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MAIN PROJECT PARTNERS



Competency-building for the protection and enhancement of French-inspired architectural heritage

French authority Urban Community of Grand Poitiers

Local authority partner: City of Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz | Argentina

Project duration: Since 2017



AIMS AND ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

After their involvement in different aspects of decentralised cooperation, Grand Poitiers and Santa Fe focused their action on the conservation and enhancement of French-inspired architectural heritage. Two successive projects were set up to develop the competencies of architects, craft-workers and engineers in Santa Fe in the field of built heritage restoration.



Current state of the School for Industry

The first project, carried out between 2017 and 2020, led to a survey of French-inspired architectural heritage in Santa Fe, an initial training session for Argentinian trainees and an academic publication.

Grand Poitiers and Santa Fe decided to pursue this cooperation project, in particular via training programmes in restoration techniques, under a second project entitled 'Technical cooperation for competency-building in the protection and enhancement of the French-inspired architectural heritage of Santa Fe', co-funded by AFD as of 2021 in the framework of the FICOL scheme (regional authority funding). Nine partners, in France and Argentina, worked together on this project.

This latest project is based on several activities:

- The organisation of training sessions on various restoration techniques (plaster and stucco, carpentry and

roofing), carried out in workshops and on selected buildings. Training courses in roofing and sheet metal working will be set up by the Vienne Building Apprentice-Training Centre (BTP CFA), which will also be sending a group of apprentice roofers to Santa Fe. These apprentices will thus benefit from international work experience and have the opportunity to share their experience and expertise with their Argentinian counterparts.

- University exchanges in the field of spectral metrology applied to heritage.
- Awareness-raising programmes in citizenship education and international solidarity for the students of the Vienne



Worksite visit

Building Apprentice-Training Centre (BTP CFA). To this end, an educational booklet on the project is to be published.

- A study entitled 'The bases of responsible decentralised cooperation: surveys, needs and actions', which is to be transmitted and applied to projects for Grand Poitiers.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Project total (2021-2024): €1,085,000

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MAIN PROJECT PARTNERS

GRAND POITIERS
Communauté urbaine



Enhancement of the historical and natural heritage of Akono

French local authorities: Community of Districts of Erstein canton and the Town of Sierentz / Grand Est Region

Local authority partner: Municipality of Akono / Centre Region (Cameroon)

Project duration: Since 2010



AIMS AND ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

Since 2010, the GESCOD network (Grand Est Solidarity & Cooperation for Development), the Community of Districts of Erstein Canton and the Town of Sierentz have been working alongside the municipality of Akono in the framework of a decentralised cooperation partnership.



Restored facade of the Notre Dame des Sept Douleurs church in Akono

The Cameroonian municipality wishes to improve the attractiveness of its region to tourists by enhancing its historic and natural heritage. In keeping with original materials and architecture, various French and Cameroonian stakeholders have joined forces for the conservation and restoration of this outstanding heritage, built in the 1930s under the Spiritan Fathers of Alsace.

A multi-partnership project has therefore been developed, leading to:

- A technical survey of the church and various buildings, carried out by the Bas-Rhin Council for Architecture, Town Planning and Environment;
- The mobilisation of the technical expertise of the AGIR ACBD organisation – a prerequisite for assessing the type of works required, their cost and technical phasing. This association also provided project management assistance for the works;
- Funding from local and Alsatian partners for the initial phases of restoration (repairs to the roofs, gutters and

belfry and the restoration of the presbytery, etc.);

- The strengthening of historic links between Alsace and Akono through the organisation of events, photo exhibitions and solidarity trips.



Church side entrance (painted door)

Numerous activities have been envisaged for the pursuit of this project:

- The performance of a landscape development study for the whole site;
- The enhancement of the natural heritage around the Akono and Nyong rivers, including the development of riverbanks, walking trails, canoe trips, environmental awareness activities and preservation of the biodiversity.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Project total over three years (2019 - 2021): €85,000

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MAIN PROJECT PARTNERS



Nablus boulevard rehabilitation project and blueprint for the sustainable City of the future

French authority: City of Lille

Local authority partner: City of Nablus | Palestinian Territories

Project duration: 2021-2024



AIMS AND ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

Lille and Nablus became twin cities on 6 June 1998. Cooperation between these two cities has been highly active and productive thanks to a vibrant pool of Lille-based NGOs working with the Palestinian Territories, regular missions and long-standing relations between the associated partners who have strengthened their ties through joint projects.



Discussions around the model of the old city of Nablus

The 'Nablus Boulevard' project forms part of the Sustainable Urban Development and Heritage aspect of the cooperation between Lille and Nablus.

Supported by the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs, two projects were implemented between 2015 and 2019, concerning the qualification of public spaces and the enhancement and dating of heritage.

The latest development project for the site aims to create a public space combining urban and environmental quality, with the re-use of buildings and a technological and cultural innovation centre, in addition to the enhancement of urban and natural heritage features. These assets testify to the remarkable industrial history which links the modern-day city to the ancient city of Tel Balata.

In 2021, the project entailed the performance of rehabilitation studies on two former industrial buildings, prior to the redevelopment of the complete site.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

- Phase 1 -2020-2021): €96,718
- Phase 2 (2022-2024) - estimated amount: €1,398,781

The second phase, supported by AFD in 2022, will enable the implementation of development studies and a preliminary module geared towards local inhabitants.

Despite the health crisis and the political and security situation in the Palestinian Territories, the strong ties binding the partners, the commitment of elected representatives, the involvement of municipal departments in both cities, and the knowledge, mutual trust and support of the French Consulate in Jerusalem have been genuine assets in ensuring the success and feasibility of the project.



General view of Nablus

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MAIN PROJECT PARTNERS



Heritage knowledge and recognition: Art Deco in Bordeaux and Casablanca (Morocco)

French authority: City of Bordeaux

Local authority partner: City of Casablanca | Morocco

Project duration: since 2016



AIMS AND ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

In 2016, Casablanca and Bordeaux, long-standing partners in decentralised cooperation, and two cities with a rich legacy of Art Deco architecture, launched a major project to enhance and showcase this heritage in the Moroccan city. The project is divided into several phases:

- An awareness-raising campaign led by Bordeaux and aimed at stakeholders in Casablanca, on the enhancement and showcasing of built heritage;
- Co-implementation of a survey of Casablanca's Art Deco heritage by Bordeaux and the local development company Casa Patrimoine, which led to the long-term definition of an illuminated tour of some twenty sites throughout the city.
- Support from Bordeaux for the drafting of a technical specifications brief for the hiring of a lighting designer;
- Casablanca's participation in the International Training Week hosted by Sites & Cités Remarquables, providing participating professionals with training in tourism and heritage;

From 2018 to 2020, the cooperation programme was focused on 'Discovering and recognising the Art Deco Heritage of both cities', through the organisation of various activities in the two cities, including:

- Workshops to raise awareness among children of the presence of this heritage in their city;



The Rialto cinema in Casablanca

- Guided tours during the European Heritage Days;
- Conferences and workshops to promote the Art Deco heritage of both cities;
- The 'Vivre l'Art Deco' [Living Art Deco] fortnight, produced by the students of Bordeaux-Montaigne University;
- Contribution by Bordeaux to the protection and enhancement of heritage in Casablanca's city centre;
- The 'Tentation Art Deco' [Art Deco Temptation] exhibition at the CIAP (Heritage Interpretation Centre) in Bordeaux.

From 2021 onwards, cooperation is focusing on the creation of an interpretation centre and the promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of Art Deco in Casablanca.



Archi-deco workshop, Casablanca Heritage Days

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Project total: €41,000 (2017-2018) - €3,500 (2019-2020)

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MAIN PROJECT PARTNERS



Networking the iconographic heritage of the Indian Ocean

French local authorities: Department of Reunion Island and Mayotte

Partners: 10 partners across 5 countries: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique and the Seychelles

Project duration: since 2017



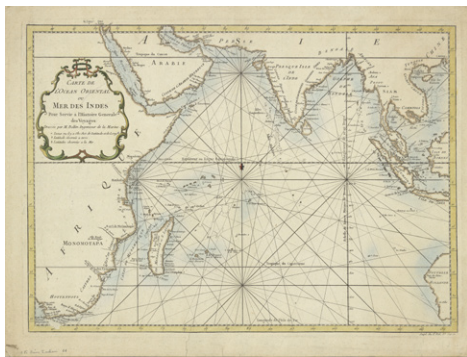
AIMS AND ACTIONS LED

Since 2017, the Historic Image Library of the Indian Ocean (IHIOI), steered by the Department of Reunion Island, has been developing a network of the iconographic heritage of six countries in the region. The aims are firstly, to source

images stored in libraries, museums and archives, in order to digitise them and make them accessible on digital media, and secondly, to highlight the wealth, diversity and uniqueness of Indian Ocean civilisations.

In this regard, the initial aim of the project was to enhance the availability of tools and services used to create cultural content in a digital format on the scale of the Indian Ocean region, via three steps:

1. Implementation of a digitisation programme, facilitated by the identification and recommendation of formats and standards linked to this operation;
2. Structuring of documentary references with a view to building a network of professionals across the region;
3. Promotion and mediation to improve the visibility and impact of activities developed following the creation of the network.



'Map of the Eastern Ocean or Indian Ocean for the purposes of history' G. Bellin, 1746, Maps

This collaborative project is co-funded by the European Union via the INTERREG V Indian Ocean programme and by the French State in the framework of the 2015-2020 plan.

Thanks to renewed support from the EU, the project is continuing in 2021 with initiatives to promote the appropriation of the iconographic heritage of the Indian Ocean:

- Transmission and educational mediation, via a twinning agreement and a competition for secondary school pupils in the Indian Ocean;

- Showcasing of digitised content through the creation and establishment of artistic residencies in partner institutions;
- Promotion of conservation and knowledge via an international multi-disciplinary seminar.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Total budget: €308,961 (2018-2020) - €218,021 (2021-2023)



Introduction to photo-mechanical processes, International Seminar, Mauritius, 11-16 November 2018

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MAIN PROJECT PARTNERS

ICONOTHÈQUE HISTORIQUE
DE L'OCEAN INDIEN



COMMISSION DE
L'OCEAN INDIEN



DÉPARTEMENT
DE LA
RÉUNION



PRÉFET
DE LA RÉGION
RÉUNION
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

Development of eco-tourism and heritage promotion in the Lào Cai and Thừa Thiên Huế provinces

French authority: Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region

Local authority partners: Lào Cai and Thừa Thiên Huế provinces | Vietnam

Project duration: since 2017



AIMS AND ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

In 2017 and in the framework of their joint decentralised cooperation activities, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region and two Vietnamese provinces decided to invest in the conservation of heritage and the development of tourism.



Terraced paddy fields surrounded by buckwheat in bloom in Si Ma Cai

In the province of Thừa Thiên Huế, the cooperative project focused on intangible heritage and gave rise to several activities:

- Teacher-training in the field of cultural mediation and e-tourism;
- The establishment of an interpretation centre devoted to imperial gastronomy: part of the intangible heritage of the city of Huế, the former imperial capital;
- Research on imperial dishes and the culinary arts.

In the Lào Cai province, four cultural and heritage sites were identified: the Lào Cai Province Museum, the Hoang A Tuong Palace in Bac Ha, the Hoang Lien National Park and the Sa Pa Tourist Information Centre.

Three types of action were implemented on all these sites in order to boost their tourism appeal:

- Exhibitions and educational workshops;
- Museographic and exhibition design developments;
- Tourist itineraries and heritage tours.

The aims, implemented in a cross-cutting manner according to the sites, are to:

- Restore, conserve and enhance the built heritage;
- Identify (re)development actions for the sites, in keeping with regional identity and the types of collections available;
- Contribute to developing the reputation of these sites in the tourism sector, in particular via a programme of events;
- Train the staff concerned in the presentation, conservation and promotion of their sites via different communication media;
- Encourage the involvement of the local population, including schoolchildren, in heritage conservation.

Despite the health situation in 2020 and 2021, cooperation projects with Lào Cai



Hoang A Tuong Palace in Bac Ha

have been maintained, through long-distance support. Among the projects, satisfactory progress has been made in the restoration of the Hoang A Tuong Palace and exhibitions are currently being organised, including on the history of Bac Ha.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Project total (2017-2022): €492,000

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For more information on the project:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CooperationNouvelleAquitaine.LaoCai.ThuaThienHue/>

MAIN PROJECT PARTNERS



Creative economy revolving around ceramics

French authority: City of Limoges

Local authority partner: City of Icheon | South Korea

Project duration: since 2015



AIMS AND ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

Inspired by the ceramics-based artistic identity of two cities, the decentralised cooperative project between Limoges and Icheon, UNESCO Cities of Crafts and Folk Art, meets five aims:



Et + si Affinité, 2016, Limoges

- Developing cultural exchange programmes (exhibitions, musical events and artist residencies, etc.);
- Promoting the sharing of experience and expertise on ceramics for all stakeholders (artists, industries, research centres and start-ups, etc.);
- Facilitating the mobility of recipients of vocational and professional training;
- Creation of a World Ceramics Trail after the signature of a Charter of Commitment with several countries,
- Consolidating Franco-Korean friendship.

The signature of a twinning agreement in 2015 officialised this engagement. Since then, numerous cooperative actions have been carried out:

- The Meeting of UNESCO Crafts Cities in Limoges in 2016. Limoges applied for membership of this network with the support of Icheon;
- With Icheon as guest of honour, the exhibition 'Et + si Affinité' in Limoges presented innovative works by local visual and ceramic artists to the public;

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Project total: between €30,000 and €40,000 per year.

- United Cities Concert brought together young musicians from Limoges and its twin cities;
- Participation in the International Ceramics Fair and the regular presence of a Limoges delegation in Icheon since 2014;
- Co-creation and organisation of the Global Youth Concert in Icheon, which brought together delegations from the music academies of five UNESCO Crafts Cities in August 2019.

In 2022, Limoges will host a UNESCO congress open to all Crafts and Folk Art cities, on the theme of innovation.



The delegation from Icheon at Limoges City Hall

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MAIN PROJECT PARTNERS



> **A non-profit organisation founded in 2000** to bring together the towns and associations of municipalities listed as 'Outstanding Heritage Sites' and signatory territories of the 'Cities and Regions of Art and History' agreement, or those with pending applications.

> **A network of more than 300 members, i.e. 2,000 municipalities**, of all sizes, from densely populated living zones to remote rural communities, sharing a guiding vision of heritage as a source of culture, but also of the renewal of urban, social, economic and environmental dynamics.

> **A platform for the national and international exchange** of expertise, experience and analyses in the fields of heritage and town planning.

> **A source of advice, expertise and support for local authorities** on action strategies, methods and tools for issues including protection, management, interpretation, promotion and heritage-based tourism economics.

> **A resource centre**, providing legal and technical monitoring services for heritage policies and associated tools.

> **A representative and an intermediary for passing on** local and regional authorities' questions and recommendations to national bodies and parliamentary assemblies.

> **A vast scope of action, including:** seminars, training and workshops for different heritage stakeholders, elected representatives and technicians; commissions and working groups on topical issues: housing, heritage and sustainable development, heritage management and taxation, heritage conversion, heritage and tourism, 'Cities and Regions of Art and History' accreditation, development of heritage policies, etc.

> **An organisation which develops partnerships and exchanges** with ministries, local authorities and their networks, and numerous heritage stakeholders on a national and international level.

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Following the success of *Vade-Mecum Heritage and Decentralised Cooperation* published in 2019, Sites & Cités Remarquables de France has produced this booklet on the links between heritage and the international action of local authorities, in partnership with the Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Culture.

This booklet will enable local authorities, organisations or French and international partners to explore a working method, discover project examples and know which stakeholders to call on in order to lead a successful international cooperative project for heritage.

Available in French and English, this new edition highlights the role of heritage in cooperative projects and the importance of international exchange and shared expertise in regional development.