

Traditional Water Techniques: Cultural Heritage for a Sustainable Future

Specific Measures in Support of International Co-operation - Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC)

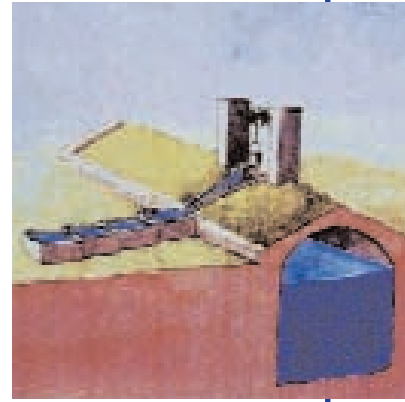


The project

Ancient practices of water harvesting, catchment and distribution had guaranteed for years water supplying to the countries and the towns all over the Mediterranean area. An articulated variety of water systems, such as the foggaras, the qanats, the khattaras (drainage tunnels), the shadufs - wells with a balance bar, the filter cisterns, the terracing, the drainages, the stone barrows, the harvesting soils and the diversion dikes, shaped in time the Mediterranean landscape, thus acting on its functionality and on its beauty as well.

Nowadays, the risk of water shortage, desertification and degradation of soils depending on global warming climate heating, the increase of urbanization and the agricultural industrialization is high.

As consequence of this, the reuse of the traditional water systems is both a fundamental contribution to the water resource management based on the local sustainability and the recovery of aesthetical values of the monuments which are a further resource for people. Case studies the Consortium focused on are the leading examples for a methodology which could be suitable also in other environments.



ITALY, Matera. Roofed cistern



GREECE, Crete. Ancient water caption stone basin, palatial period.



ALGERIA, Adrar. Foggara.



EGYPT, Siwa. Water cistern fed by subterranean ground water (Roman).

Objectives

The project aims to contribute to the development of a bank of information on traditional and indigenous technologies and to focus on the rich and diverse water saving, water irrigation and wastewater-related heritage in the Mediterranean. This region provides a clear example of how water management has been inexorably linked with social, economic and local political history. Shaduf main objectives are:

- Developing a database of information on key water management practices in ancient times using archaeological, historical and environmental information and field work
- Carrying out an inventory of water catchment techniques still existing in the Mediterranean tradition
- Evaluating the monumental character and the cultural significance of the considered techniques and proposing appropriate strategies of restoration and conservation
- Evaluating the sustainability of current water management activities and proposed activities in terms of the long-time perspective of the project



EGYPT, Marsa Matruh, Med Coast. Aqueduct: beach Foggara.



JORDAN, Petra. Water channels uncovered during the excavation of the Siq as part of rehabilitation of the Siq to its original Nabatean status.

SHADUF is a project coordinated by EJTN-GEIE



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