

CARISMED

Capitalisation for Re-setting Innovation
and Sustainability in MED-Cities

THIRD NEWSLETTER: The Carismed Project News, 2023



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Opening speech/ The Third newsletter

It is a great pleasure to meeting you again on the pages of the third newsletter of CARISMED project. This newsletter comes after all administrative, financial and field activities for the first year have been completed, reported and approved by the "Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme". ENI CBC Med. This achievement was followed by holding of the third meeting of the project steering committee, which took place in Tunis on May 9, 2023. Furthermore, the preparation of the training manual, which will be implemented in the six cities participating in the project, has also been completed. It is expected that these training's activities will be completed by the end of August 2023.

Moreover, the activities related to selecting sites and buildings to which the LCARS methodology will be applied have now been crystallized appropriately, taking into account the difficulties faced by some partners from European Union countries in finding suitable sites / buildings for applying this methodology, and achieving the desired goals without violating the policies and laws in force in dealing with old buildings, especially in the cities of Athens/ Greece and Murcia/ Spain.

This newsletter will be devoted to covering an important component of the project, which is the "Low-Cost Adaptive Reuse" methodology, and to shed light on the course of work on the project in the participating cities during the past six months, that is, since the second newsletter that was issued in March 2023.

I fully hope that the material provided by this newsletter is suitable for presenting what has been achieved in the above-mentioned context.

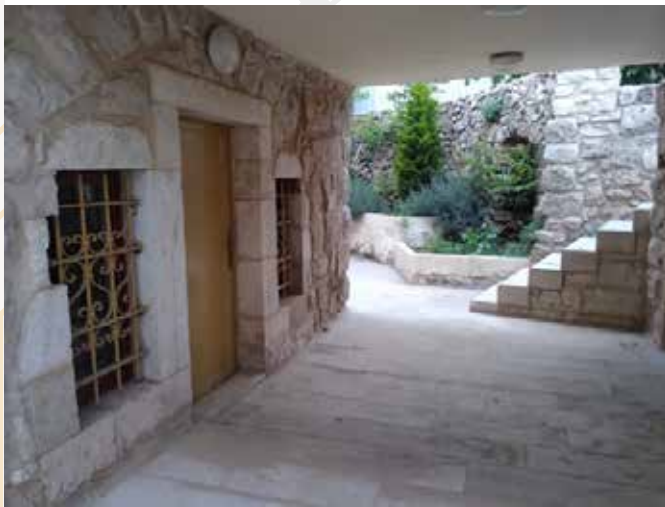
SMEs LCARS Lab in Hebron, Palestine

Hebron's Old City is the economic and cultural hub of the area. With a wide range of local trades and crafts, the city is a lively and central area of the West Bank. Numerous ancient monuments and buildings have been preserved, witnessing a rich and prosperous past. CARISMED team decided with the Municipality of Hebron and the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee to investigate five public buildings already used and operated by public bodies like, some of these buildings have wide spaces and large rooms that are not in use although fully administered by public bodies. The proposed buildings are the Tourism, Heritage and Antiquities Centre, the Hebron Museum, the Chamber of commerce former building, the Skafi store, and the Traditional Handcrafts Center.



Based on the cooperation with the public bodies the Tourism, Heritage and Antiquities Centre has been selected to host the SMEs LCARS Lab. The building is located in the core of the Old City and composed of two stories and outdoor yard. It was renovated and operated by Hebron Municipality, and have unused indoor and outdoor spaces. By selecting and reusing this building the following goals are targeted:

1. No need of any permits for renovation.
2. The buildings will be administrated by public body after the project ends.
3. The building is already in use, transportation and crowds have access with minimum obstacles.
4. SMEs owners are familiar with the location.



The building will be reused based on adaptive re-use approach, according to four main axes determined by CARISMED project:

- Green architecture: The building will be environmentally friendly, and the outdoor space will be exploited, solar energy system will be applied, and environmentally friendly solutions will be used in heating and air conditioning.
- Smart cities: In addition to using of the Internet, a technological infrastructure (ICT) will be applied.
- Recycling - recycled furniture and supplies will be used inside the building, old used equipment and tools will be re-managed to serve the beneficiaries. Craftsmen will be encouraged to manufacture the furnishing and decorating of the LCARS Studio.



CARISMED Urban Policy for Med-Cities - CRES

To develop the CARISMED Urban Policy for Med-Cities, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) with the contribution of all partners completed the Methodological Framework Reports and is currently drafting the Urban Policy for Med-Cities, based on the data collected from the preparatory steps of this work package and the contribution of the Greek Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES).

Methodological Framework Reports

A. Strategy design for improvement of sustainability based on low-cost adaptive reuse practices (LCARS).

Taking into account the identified need to get familiar with the CE Concept and the Low Cost Adaptive Reuse Practices and their benefits in order to counteract anthropogenic pressures and environmental threats and promote sustainability and circular approaches for an urban transition to circularity the Strategy Design sets 4 research axes in relation to local and regional context per city:

1. The Circular Economy (CE) concept
2. The planning policies for the urban built environment in the Med-cities
3. The cultural heritage resources that constitute unique identity features
4. The territorial impact for the CCI SMEs' business model in EUMCs/MCPs

B. Data Collection from each participating city Consolidated Methodological Framework.

The purpose of the CARISMED Toolkit/ Advisory Guide is to support and effectively assist all interested parties to:

1. Get familiar with the CE concept.
2. Explore contemporary practices that manage to combine the sustainability principles with Creativity, focusing on a more eco-friendly and innovative economy.
3. Get informed about innovative methods and techniques that gradually create the very dynamic field of the upcycling productivity.
4. Be more aware of the Low Cost Adaptive Reuse Practices (LCARs)



Based on these research axes NTUA compiled a questionnaire for the Data Collection from each participating city that, with the contribution from all partners of the program, formed the Consolidated Methodological Framework. Collecting data from each participating city on the axes set above, each partner identified the specific pilot case area and drafted the strategy design of LCARs per city in a specific urban area/ value chain.

Urban Policy for Med-Cities

Following the aforementioned steps NTUA is currently drafting the Urban Policy for Med-Cities. CARISMED aims to develop an Urban Policy for improving sustainability and integrating innovation into the urban setting within Med-cities through capitalization and fostering synergies among Projects. For this reason, in order to develop a Toolkit/ advisory guide of this Policy, data collection from and observation in each pilot area per participating city is foreseen. The Urban Policy for Med-cities will capitalize on relevant ongoing Projects' experience and knowledge gained.



CRES completed Desk review & strategies

As a first step towards the development of the CARISMED project Strategy for improvement of sustainability based on Low Cost Adaptive Reuse Strategies (LCARS), two preparatory studies were completed with joint efforts by all project partners, coordinated by the Greek Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES), and feedback by the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) as coordinator of Work Package 3 of the project.

Desk review & Uptake strategy of ongoing Projects (outcomes / expected results).

Relevant EU and national projects were reviewed, focusing on improving sustainability, promoting circular economy, and integrating innovation into buildings and urban settings in Mediterranean cities. The objective was to identify useful outcomes, best practices, and lessons learnt, that can be capitalized and mainstreamed in public policies and explore potential synergies with CARISMED.

Relevant projects were identified:

- 8 projects introducing innovative policy instruments / tools / methods / protocols
- 10 projects introducing innovative technical tools / methods / solutions
- 8 projects introducing innovative awareness-raising / training schemes or tools

Baseline Report: Situation analysis and Diagnostic mapping of degraded & unused buildings / areas at Med-Cities

A review was undertaken of policies and practices applied in the EU and the participating Mediterranean territories (Palestine, Greece, Spain, Italy, Tunisia and Jordan) as regards sustainability in urban settings, and a situation analysis and diagnostic mapping of the built environment were carried out, with a view to identifying its deficiencies and unleashing hidden potential.

- 48 key EU and national Laws and policy documents / plans were identified, related to improving sustainability and integrating circular economy into urban settings.
- The key characteristics of the building stock profile were analysed in the 6 participating Med countries and at EU level, focusing on degraded and unused buildings.
- 20 case studies were identified, of buildings' and/or urban areas regeneration using sustainability / LCARS principles in the partners' territories.



The outcomes of both above studies provide the foundations for the development of the project Methodological framework for LCARS and the uptake of results into public policies, and provide a supportive background for the forthcoming project activities such relevant events with target stakeholders and synergies with other relevant projects.

The Capitalization of the SME4SMARTCITIES results - CEEIM

The SME4SMARTCITIES Final Conference was held on the 21st of June in Málaga (Spain) and gathered international professionals from the Smart cities sector. SME4SMARTCITIES is a European project (ENI CBC MED Programme), coordinated by the EU Business Innovation Center of Murcia (CEEIM), that was launched four years ago to foster collaboration and understanding between innovative public procurement officers and technology startups with proposals specialized in transforming cities into smart cities, in order to have technological solutions that respond to the needs of their urban Mediterranean challenges.

The final conference was the occasion to showcase the technological solutions that were selected to be implemented in different Mediterranean cities after a process that included training programme, entrepreneurial missions, and networking matching sessions. These solutions are related to the efficient management of water supply networks, the reduction of the impact of the heat island effect in urban environments and areas of sustainable mobility, among other proposals such as parking for people with reduced mobility. The participating companies also had the opportunity to explain the event attendees their services for smart cities in the marketplace organised for the occasion.

WORLD CAFÉ WORKSHOP OPENING, IRBID - Future Pioneers (FPEC)

Future Pioneers had several meetings with the Irbid municipality, which is the main stakeholder in Irbid, and it was agreed to select Al-Zhara Park to utilize this unused building and extend its life expectancy to make it environmentally, economically, and culturally more sustainable to be used as a pilot to adopt LCARS practices on the one hand and to encourage the CCI SMEs working in the circular economy to have a gathering hub and exhibition for their products on the other. It will be the creative studio for CCI SMEs.



The Main characteristics of the location (Al-Zhara Park) are:

- This abandoned building was used in the past as the management office for the park.
- It is about 50 m².
- It is a public urban space that can be easily accessed by the local community.
- It is planned to rehabilitate this building to become a youth workshop for up-cycling, as it is one of the most important bases of CARISMED success.
- The workshop will become a place for the next generation to learn about CARISMED, including Circular Economy, Up-Cycling, Innovation and sustainability.



Repurposing Pilot Project: Collectif Creatif Fostering Creative Collaboration in the Medina

Our choice for the repurposing pilot project aims to capitalize on previous experiences of low-cost reuse strategies led by the creative community in the medina over the past five years. Traditionally, public authorities have been the main actors in the repurposing of urban buildings in the medina. However, recent initiatives by private and associative actors involved in the cultural and creative industries (CCI) have emerged, signaling a shift in this dynamic.

While these small-scale initiatives have limited funding, they have brought forth interesting ideas for repurposing buildings. Examples include collaborative design studios that engage with the community, private studios collaborating with artisans, artists' studios, coworking spaces, and boutique hotels that promote cultural and inclusive events. Our association headquarters, known as Dar El Collectif, serves as a prime example of a low-cost reuse strategy. The space has undergone gradual renovation with a minimal budget, and a portion of the renovation was carried out collaboratively with the extended community. Some areas of the building remain untouched due to funding constraints.

The situation analysis we operated through extensive mapping in the Medina, reveals a decline in creative professions, especially artisanal trades. Economic factors such as high living costs and lack of support contribute to this decline. However, the medina still harbors a wealth of artisanal trades, offering fertile ground for young creatives.

The medina also features numerous vacant and poorly maintained spaces owned by public institutions. Reclaiming and investing in these buildings' present challenges, requiring complex collaboration processes with public entities. By repurposing buildings and providing dedicated spaces for collaboration, our project aims to revive creativity, support local artisans, and foster a vibrant community in the medina. Together, we can reimagine the potential of these neglected spaces and create a thriving ecosystem for design and innovation.



The space is located within our headquarters at Dar El Collectif. Since the entire building has not been renovated, our plan is to continue the process by transforming a medium sized room into an exhibition space for early career creatives (Designer, Makers, Artists...) This addition will complement the existing repurposed subspaces, such as the coworking space and makers' studios. The repurposing will be made through collaborative brainstorming workshop with creatives within the community.

