



## Québec Roadmap: Towards a New Urban Project (2022-2024)

**PRIORITY THEMATIC (5):** Crafts and traditional know-how for the preservation of heritage

### Regional Secretariat of the Southern Europe and Mediterranean

#### Synthesis of the Thematic Worksheet (Step 3.1.2)

In accordance with Strategic Axis 1 of the Québec Roadmap - "Inclusive and cohesive cities inspired by their identities and cultural diversity", the *Priority Thematic* presented aims to valorize and preserve the crafts and professions involved in the restoration and rehabilitation of the tangible heritage.

One of the main challenges faced by historic cities is to preserve the knowledge and use of traditional techniques and scientific methods for the restoration and conservation of their tangible heritage in its multiple artistic manifestations: stone, wood, metal, glass, painting, among others; and with this, also preserve the intangible heritage of these crafts, the know-how of these forms of crafts, the customs and traditions that are linked to them and the scientific techniques developed by professionals in the conservation and restoration of heritage.

Several cities have implemented education and training methods for the formation of specialists and artisans in these traditional techniques, incentive policies, bank of materials, among other methods, in order to safeguard and prevent this culture from being lost with the passing of generations. However, in the modern reality, the high cost of materials and scarcity of expert professionals present an additional difficulty to the cities in terms of restoration of their historic buildings and monuments; in many cases having to opt for the use of contemporary materials and non-compatible interventions that impact the integrity and authenticity of the heritage.

#### Associated matters

The Regional Secretariat of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean is already working in collaboration with member cities that have developed initiatives to promote traditional arts and crafts. As a result, the Regional Secretariat is now proposing to form a Collaborative Network that will pursue the reflection process with a view to establishing concrete measures in support of the future New Urban Project targeted within the framework of the Roadmap. The Collaborative Network will bring together experiences and collective research efforts on various interrelated issues, including the following:

- Identification and consolidation of professionals who restore material heritage in its most diverse forms: stone, wood, metal, glass, painting and frescoes, among others;
- Dissemination and valorization of the use of traditional techniques, as well as their preservation and perpetuation;
- Strengthening of the market so that these enterprises are profitable;
- Methods for the training of trained municipal professionals in their respective trades;
- Governance. Establishment of standards to be enacted at the local level which require the use of specific competencies for heritage interventions in a certified manner;
- Mitigation of the visual impact caused by the use of non-compatible materials and techniques;
- Dissemination and valorization of the use of traditional techniques.