



January 8, 2024

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

COLLABORATIVE NETWORK Priority Thematic: *Crafts and Traditional Know-How for the Preservation of Heritage*

Pilot City: *Regional Secretariat of Southern Europe and Mediterranean*

Action Plan (proposal by the regional secretariat)

Introduction

The objective of the Collaborative Networks, as "communities of practice", is to create a free and creative space for debate and reflection that allows and organizes a constructive dialogue for the search for innovative solutions. The member cities of the OWHC will be able, in this privileged framework, to learn from each other and create a shared culture.

The work carried out will serve as a basis for the Cordoba Symposium (September 2024).

Concept and objectives

The Priority Thematic presented by the Regional Secretariat for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean aims to value and preserve the crafts and professions involved in the restoration and recovery of tangible heritage. With this, the thematic " Crafts and Traditional Know-How for the Preservation of Heritage" aims to promote and reinforce the specialized work carried out by craftsmen and other professionals who possess the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out the restoration, conservation and enhancement of this built heritage using traditional techniques.

In view of the 17th World Congress of the OWHC to be held in Cordoba in September 2024, the Collaborative Network has the following objectives:

- Identification, consolidation of professionals of crafts that restore tangible 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, respected and duly requested for the proper restoration of the built heritage.

Presentation of the challenges of the thematic

For the past 8 years, the Regional Secretariat for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean has been developing programs for the enhancement and conservation of arts and crafts in World Heritage cities. 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 artisanship, 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 capacity building methods to train artisans in these traditional techniques, incentive policies, materials banks, training of specialists, 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 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.

Taking into consideration the cultural diversity and different knowledge, as well as the traditional and professional crafts of each World Heritage city, it is necessary to find viable alternatives for the valorization, dissemination, and incentive to the use of traditional and scientific techniques for the preservation and restoration of heritage properties.

Schedule and calendar

Monthly virtual meetings will be organized within the framework of the Collaborative Network with the objective of maintaining a constant dialogue and reflection in order to identify as many problematics and potential solutions as possible prior to the 17th World Congress to be held in Cordoba, Spain, in September 2024. After the phase of diagnosis and the creation of a common working methodology, each city that is part of the collaborative network will choose to define the actions that best respond to its needs and these solutions may be the object of concrete projects to be implemented later on.

Calendar:

29 February 2024 Virtual	Presentation of the priority thematic and consolidation of the Collaborative Network with the approval of the work methodology and responsibilities of each participating city. <i>Call for the next meeting: contributions on the constraints and challenges (problematics and difficulties) caused by the disappearance of traditional practices of heritage conservation.</i>
21 March 2024 Virtual	Presentation of the problematics and difficulties encountered by each participating city. Definition of the priority problematic(s) to be worked on in more detail within the framework of the Collaborative Network. <i>Call for the next meeting: Contributions to the identification of studies cases and best practices.</i>
9 May 2024 Virtual	Presentation of case studies and best practices identified by the participating cities. <i>Call for the next meeting: Contributions to the identification of potential solutions and formulation of recommendations.</i>
25-26 June 2024 In person Porto, Portugal	Consolidation of possible actions to be implemented. On-site visit to the Materials Bank of the City of Porto.
September 2024	Presentation of the final results (Diagnosis + Possible Actions) at the OWHC Congress to be held in Cordoba in 2024.