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LitusGo Manual

Module 15

Archaeological areas/Historic Sites/Cultural heritage

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Preface to the LitusGo Education Manual

The LitusGo Manual is part of the LitusGo educational package which is included in the LitusGo portal: www.litusgo.eu. LitusGo aims at the training and capacity building of Local Authorities and local stakeholders in Integrated Coastal Zone Management issues and the reaction to the impacts of climate change.

This Manual consists of 20 autonomous, self-contained and inter-related modules. The modules are available in four languages, Greek, English, Maltese and Turkish and in three different forms: the dedicated wiki application in the LitusGo portal, the dvd and the hard copy version. This hard copy version of the LitusGo Manual consists of 20 self-contained booklets, one for each module, kept in a hard collective case.

List of modules of the LitusGo Educational Manual

Module 1:	European legal framework
Module 2:	Stakeholder involvement/Public participation
Module 3:	Sustainable tourism-carrying capacity
Module 4:	Water resources management
Module 5:	Fisheries/fish farming
Module 6:	Coastal water quality
Module 7:	Ecosystems management (land and coastal ecosystems)
Module 8:	Waste management/recycling/compost
Module 9:	Air pollution
Module 10:	Land uses/urban planning/coastal over-development
Module 11:	Landscape and marine-scape management
Module 12:	Coastal erosion control
Module 13:	Community annoyance issues 1: noise pollution
Module 14:	Community annoyance issues 2: light and thermal pollution, odors
Module 15:	Archeological areas/historic sites/cultural heritage
Module 16:	Extreme conditions management: flood risks, coastal flooding and storm surge
Module 17:	Droughts
Module 18:	Desertification
Module 19:	Energy use, consumption and management
Module 20:	Green buildings

Credits

The LitusGo Education Manual has been developed by the LitusGo Educational Manual Working group:
Modules 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 have been prepared by the scientific team of the beneficiary/coordinators ISOTECH Ltd. Major authors: Michael I. Loizides, Chemical/Environmental Engineer and Xenia I. Loizidou, Civil/Coastal Engineer. Constantinos Georgiades (MSc in ICZM) is responsible for the overall editing. The hard copy of the educational Manual is designed by Anastasia Georgiou.

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Dr Alan Pickaver on behalf of partner The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) was responsible for the quality control of the educational material.

LitusGo partnership:

Coordinator/Beneficiary**:**

ISOTECH Ltd Environmental Research and Consultancy www.isotech.com.cy

Cyprus:

Municipality of Pafos www.pafos.org.cy

AKTI Project and Research Centre, www.akti.org.cy

Greece:

ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage www.ellet.gr **/ Sustainable Aegean Programme**, www.egaio.gr

ONISIS web development www.onisis.gr

Malta:

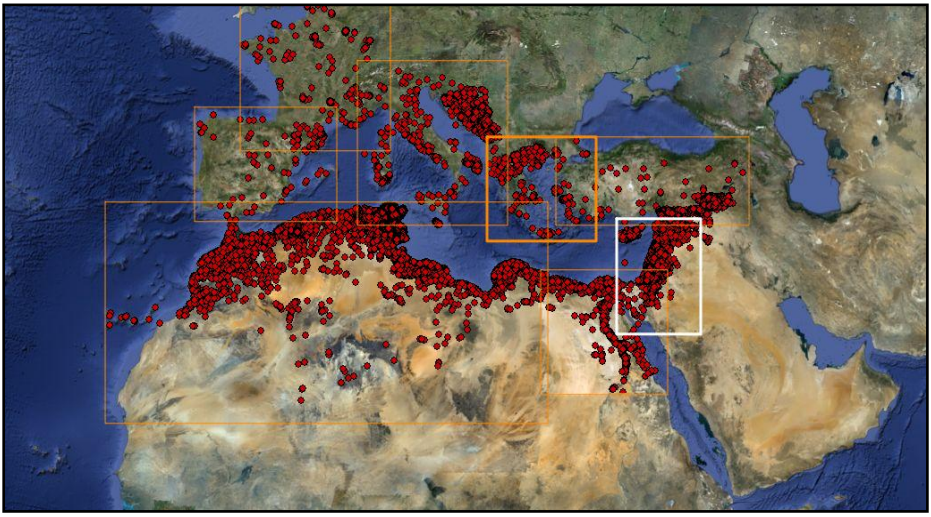
Municipality of Kirkop www.kirkop.gov.mt

The Netherlands:

EUCC – The Coastal & Marine Union www.eucc.net

1| Theoretical background

History has been very generous with the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. Numerous different, yet very important, civilizations have developed around this semi-closed basin, religions have been born and died, sciences have evolved, trade and war have brought about cultural and linguistic exchanges, transforming the Mediterranean Sea into "*a cultural melting-pot*" (Dabdoub Nasser, 2008:65). Minoans, Phoenicians, Egyptians, Israelis, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans, Arabs, Genoese, Venetians, have all left their traces along the Mediterranean, in the form of ancient temples, mosques, castles, churches and everyday life constructions still visible -in better or worse condition- today.



Picture 1. Medarchnet, Mediterranean Heritage Sites [8].

Despite the fact that the Mediterranean is widespread with heritage sites, which are *unique* and *non-renewable* once destroyed, for centuries the local populations living around them had been ignoring them, or even using them as building materials or as corrals for their animals (De la Torre and Mac Lean, 1997).

Photo 1. Ancient Carthage, Mare Nostrum Project [9].

From the beginning of the 19th century though, the situation started changing: heritage sites started attracting the attention of archaeologists and romantic travelers and adventurers first; and tourists later. Today, the Mediterranean heritage sites are visited by millions every year, having become major tourist destinations. Along with the increasing visitor interest though, equally increasing is the rate of destruction of the sites, for many different reasons that will be further analyzed in the following chapters.

2| Objective

Despite the fact that nowadays the importance of the Mediterranean heritage sites has been widely recognized and they no longer end up as building materials or corrals for animals, their destruction

continues in various different forms. The conservation of the Mediterranean heritage sites is therefore of crucial importance. The LitusGo project is making an effort to fill the information and training gap regarding heritage sites management, and provide local decision makers and local stakeholders with practical, implementable solutions on how to manage these treasures of theirs.

3| Problem

Mediterranean heritage sites represent different values for different groups of people. For scholars, they represent the subject of their study, for nations and regions, their ethnic or local identity, for the pious they have religious value, for artists aesthetic, for the people whose livelihood depends on the sites, they have an economic value as well (De la Torre, 1997). Despite the above though –and sometimes because of them – Mediterranean heritage sites are facing severe problems which contribute to their gradual destruction. Those problems include:

a) Unplanned and unchecked development.
b) Environmental changes.
c) Excessive and unmanaged visits.
d) Inappropriate "preservation" interventions.

Unplanned and unchecked development: The places that ancient populations used to choose for settlement, thus the places where we find heritage sites today, have always been carefully selected on the basis of their favourable physical or geographical

positioning. Taking into account the added importance of the existence of the heritage sites in such areas as well, the demand for land, to host business initiatives or service infrastructures, becomes so intense that sometimes the local populations are *forced* away. Sometimes, those new infrastructures change the surrounding environment of a heritage site massively, and the effects of those changes eventually appear and can be destructive for the site.

Environmental changes: Environmental changes and rises in temperature can cause additional problems to heritage sites. These sites have survived in their environment for centuries and any change in the environmental conditions around them directly affects the sites themselves. Natural (as well as human-made) disasters also threaten the sites.

Excessive and unmanaged visits: More and more people every year are visiting the Mediterranean sites and the income generated through cultural tourism is increasing. However, at the same time, the financial resources allocated to site conservation and management do not follow the same trend because, as it usually happens, the income from admission receipts ends up in the general accounts of the heritage agencies or the national treasuries. In addition, excessive visitor-traffic as well as social events which ignore the sites' carrying capacities "*have a great impact on the site and are a source of management concern*" (Doumas 1997, in De La Torre,1997). Conversely, very low visitor numbers are also a problem, since "*low or no visitor numbers usually degrade the sites into the state of "invisible sites*" (Doumas, 1997; Orbaşlı 2002; cited in Lekakis, 2005), thus depriving them of the funding that "*more*

popular" sites have access to, therefore compromising their conservation.

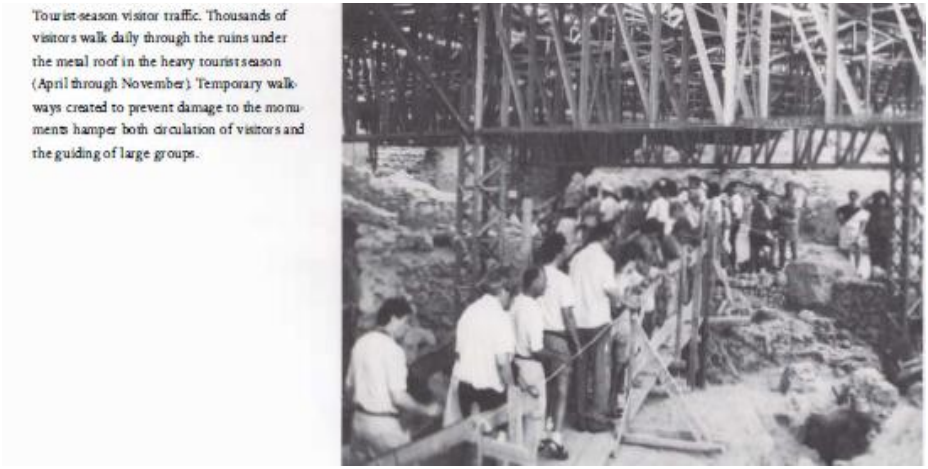


Photo 2. The Conservation of Archaeological Sites in the Mediterranean Region (Doumas, 1997; in De la Torre, 1997).

Inappropriate "preservation" interventions: Since funding for the conservation of the heritage sites is usually highly dependent on the numbers of tourists who visit them annually, it is not uncommon for archaeologists and cultural authorities to try and reconstruct architectural elements of a site in an attempt to make it more "*attractive*" for tourists. Such interventions though, can easily end up serving the needs of the tourists, or the archaeologists, more than the needs of the heritage sites themselves, posing one additional threat for their preservation.

4| How to deal with the problem

According to the Strategy for the development of Euro-Mediterranean cultural heritage 2007-2013 (2007), cultural heritage –just like environmental heritage – constitutes "*public wealth*". Therefore, the primary target of any management plan has to be the conservation of the cultural significance of the site, and not to meet the needs of the tourists, archaeologists or developers (Sullivan, 1997; in De la Torre, 1997). In order for that to happen, certain aspects must be taken into account in any site management plan, and Local Authorities can play an important role in this effort:

a) Better collaboration and communication amongst various interest groups,
b) Up-to-date specialist training for site managers, guides, conservationists, and
c) Awareness raising amongst the locals.

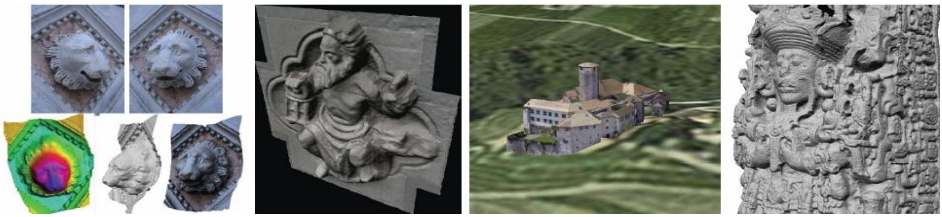
a) Collaboration and communication amongst various interest groups:

Local Authorities should promote stakeholder participation and stakeholder enhancement. Any plan regarding the conservation of any heritage site is doomed to fail unless all stakeholders, all "key players", are invited in the consultation and the realization of the plan. Key players are, according to Susan Sullivan (1997:18, in De la Torre, 1997), "*those for whom the site has value, those who have important information about it, and those who can influence its management*". Site managers, archaeologists, architects, national

and local authorities, tour organizers and –above all- local communities, only have a positive role to play and should never be ignored, because that could potentially have the opposite effects.

b) Up-to-date specialist training:

There's a growing recognition of the need for improved presentation and interpretation of heritage sites to the public. Unfortunately, heritage sites are very much underdeveloped regarding their presentation to the public, which should actually be "*viewed and accepted as obligations to the visitor*" (De La Torre, 1997). In such a way, the visitors will also become advocates of the research and conservation of heritage sites, not just "*puzzled tourists*". Therefore, what is required is: detailed and reader-friendly guidebooks, well-informed guides, interpretive panels to guide the visitors to avoid the fragile parts of the sites, and visualization methods using the cutting edge of modern technology. 3-D documentation of heritage sites is becoming increasingly popular as the work of several scholars indicates (Remondino and Rizzi, 2009; Gruen et al. 2003). Internet is an important tool, which is not much implemented for our heritage sites. A good idea could be to link local field opportunities with parallel academic institutional programs (Nardi, 2010), giving local people the chance to acquire specialist training related to the restoration and conservation, documentation, cataloguing and presentation of the heritage sites present in their areas.



Picture 2. Heritages digitally reconstructed using image or range-based modeling techniques for conservation, restoration, educational and visualization purposes (Source: Remondino and Rizzi, 2009).

c) Capacity building and Awareness-raising:

Local Authorities may:

- organise **capacity building and training programs** to enhance local expertise and local skills, so that local decision makers and local stakeholders are aware of the tools and the techniques available for better management of heritage sites.
- raise awareness amongst the local communities regarding the importance of the sites. This is also crucial if we aspire to have local communities engaged in their conservation. In such a way, local or regional communities will view the sites as "*their heritage*". Schools, Universities and Vocational Training Schools are necessary partners in this direction.

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