

ENPI CBCMED Programme MEDNETA project

• About the Project



2015 has been the last year of this project in which GAIA-heritage has been an active partner. Beirut, Athens, Tunis, Valencia, Florence and Hebron cooperated together and organised surveys and studies, workshops, pilot projects on creativity in urban regeneration and exchange of knowhow. Finally an exhibition in Beirut at Villa Audi presented design objects produced jointly by designers and craftsmen from these six cities. The success of the exhibition has led to its replication in Athens where it will travel in February and later in Spain

For more information of the project and our partners, please visit: www.medneta.gaiaheritage.com

Stay updated on recent activities in Beirut by following the project's [Facebook page](#)

• “In Mar Mikhael”: Promoting the Creative Industries of a District in Beirut

From 16th to 24th January 2015, we organised a one week event “In Mar Mikhael” that included “Behind the Object”, an exhibition on the production process; urban talks on the neighbourhood needs; a training workshop for artists and designers and finally public tours of the neighbourhood. Besides promoting the creative industries of Mar Mikhael, the event attempted to bring local residents and newcomers (mainly the ACDS - artists, craftsmen and designers) of Mar Mikhael to meet each other.

• “Weaving the Sea”: an Exhibition on Collaboration between Craftsmen and Designers Across the Mediterranean

Between November 24 and December 5, we presented at Villa Audi in Beirut the joint works of craftsmen and designers from the partner cities of the project. Twelve

pairs of craftsmen and designers each from a different city put together their know-how and each pair jointly conceived and created a product. The exhibition aimed at presenting the quality of these artists as well as launching a series of cooperation between designers and craftsmen from different cities. The exhibition was a success: some pairs composed of a craftsman and a designer have already agreed to continue cooperating and have begun launching products. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Minister of Culture, H. E. Mr. Rony Araygi and received more than a thousand visitors.

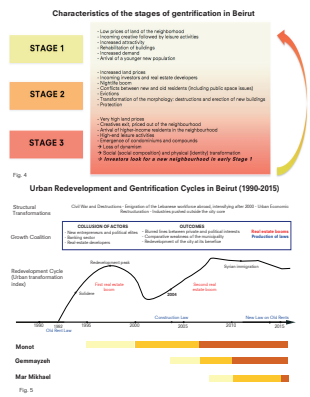


• **Trends and Prospects of an Urban Economic Structure: the Case of Mar Mikhael**

Mari Mikhael is a traditional neighbourhood that is facing rapid change in an unbridled manner. To understand the economic changes thinking place, we conducted a complete census of its economic actors, conducted in-depth survey of a representative sample and studied the history of the place since the early 20th century. The study focussed on identifying causes of this structural change, understanding the current economic structure of the neighbourhood and its possible evolution. The study also aimed at measuring the impact of the arrival of the ACDs (Artists, Craftsmen and Designers) on the neighbourhood’s economy. A preliminary report is completed and has shown the limited role of the ACDs enthuse changes. The final study is expected to be available in Summer 2016.

Cooperation with the Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po)
Linking Economic Changes and Social Justice in Mar Mikhael – A Capstone Project

As part of its collaboration with Sciences-Po (Paris), GAIA-heritage and the IEP of Paris accomplished a 6 months-long “Capstone” project on Mar Mikhael through funding from the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs. Four Master’s students and a professor who tutored them studied the paradoxical consequences of the insertion of contemporary economy starts up in a traditional mixed district. The [Capstone report](#) – “Linking Economic Changes and Social Justice in Mar Mikhael” – provides a sound analysis and makes recommendations to address urban justice in a rapidly changing district in which those most endangered are the middle and low income families and the retired residents. Schemes have been suggested to mitigate these risks and improve social justice through affordable housing schemes and adapted financial measures. The Capstone addressed also the issue of rights to the public spaces and the improvement of the decision-making process and representation of the population rights within the neighbourhood.



Interns from the Sciences-Po Urban School

We have been pleased to welcome two interns from Sciences-Po: Louise Cousyn and Clémence Rebourg. They have both contributed to the development of the Urban Mediterranean Observatory created by GAIA-heritage. Louise Cousyn joined GAIA-heritage’s team for 6 months starting January 2015. She holds a Master in Urbanism (GLM, Governing the Large Metropolis) from Sciences Po Paris. Clémence joined the team for a 3 months internship to work on the bibliography of the Observatory. She is currently doing her double degree in Urban Policy between Sciences Po Paris and the London School of Economics.

Algeria - technical Support to the EU Funded Programme Patrimoine

The purpose of this project is to provide technical assistance to the Algerian Ministry of Culture in the protection and promotion of its cultural heritage since the end of 2014. Financed by the European Union and led by GOPA consultants, this project focuses on strengthening local institutions and providing stakeholders with a detailed methodology ranging from asset identification to efficient and effective use of the country’s cultural heritage. In 2015, GAIA-heritage has provided consultancies in five different fields: restoration and reuse of built cultural heritage, conservation and preservation of cinematographic archives, conservation of photographic archives, expertise in methodologies of conservation and valorisation of visual heritage as well as an expertise in the promotion of businesses related to heritage.

Phoenician and Nabatean Epigraphies EU ENPI CBCMED MEDINA Project

MEDINA is a EU funded project seeking to promote the knowledge and dissemination of Phoenician and Nabataean inscriptions in Lebanon and Jordan. Led by the university of Pisa, the project includes Yarmouk University (Jordan), MAGO Productions (Spain) and IPOA (Spain), GAIA-heritage being the Lebanese partner. We carried out detailed listing of Phoenician



inscriptions,

organised workshops and established trainings. The project came to its end in December. Its results will be distributed and used through catalogue and its website. In Beirut, we launched a first didactic test of three lessons on the Phoenicians with the Lycée Franco-Libanais.

See: <http://medinaproject-epigraphy.eu>

New Team Members at GAIA-heritage

Elisabetta Pietrostefani who coordinated the MEDNETA project from its beginning until August 2015 completed her MSc in International Development from the IEP of Paris. She wrote her MA Thesis on “Valuating Urban Heritage in a Development Perspective in Lebanon”. Elisabetta left GAIA-heritage in September to pursue doctoral studies at the London School of Economics in the field of valuation of Urban Heritage.

Adriana Santos took over the position of project manager after the departure of Elisabetta Pietrostefani. She has been in charge of coordinating the MEDNETA project and of organising the exhibition “Weaving the Sea”. Graduated in Translation and Interpretation from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Adriana had already worked for GAIA-heritage in 2013 for the organisation of the International Conference on “Contemporary Architecture in Historic Cities” that took place in Sevilla, Spain.

Grace Kassis and Eugénie Tenezakis joined GAIA-heritage team for summer and fall 2015 to conduct the Economic study of Mar Mikhael. Grace is currently finishing her M.A in Economics specializing in economic policies at USJ, Lebanon. Eugénie is completing her M.A in International Economy and Development at University Paris Dauphine, France.

During the first half of 2015, Alexandra Ivanova carried out a research on the **Art Market of Beirut**. She is currently a student in Economics and Business at Science-Po Paris.

May Ziadé joined GAIA-heritage summer 2015 to write her M.A. Thesis in Social and Cultural Anthropology at UCL. She produced a detailed paper on an endangered historic landmark in Beirut: “Occupying the Rose House: exploring citizen conceptions of built cultural heritage, time and space in the city of Beirut”.

• Tiger World

TigerWorld est la réalisation d'un rêve d'enfant. La passion du monde animal, partagée par quatre personnes : Michel Louis, Rémy Flachaire, dresseur, Francis Hugon, concepteur et constructeur de très grands décors, et Frédéric Ravatin, scénographe. TigerWorld présente un scénario, dans lequel l'homme, qui autrefois « domptait les tigres » et imposait sa loi à la nature, dialoguerait avec les tigres, et avec les forces



de la nature.

Cinq tableaux animent le spectacle : le lever de soleil sur un temple d'Angkor, une éruption volcanique et déluge de feu, la forêt d'émeraude, nuit et déluge d'eau, neige et glaces.

• RESTITUTION DE LA GROTTTE CHAUVET

Creatime intervient régulièrement sur ce projet depuis 1996. Après avoir mené les études pour l'équipement de la grotte en vue de son étude scientifique (1996 - 2006), nous avons remporté en 2000 le concours de conception et réalisation de la restitution de la grotte.



Nous avons conduit les études de définition et les études techniques de la restitution entre 2002 et 2010, puis assisté le groupe VINCI pour la réalisation, conformément aux cahiers des charges que nous avons

rédigés. L'espace a ouvert ses portes au public au printemps 2015.

LIAISONS URBAINES

● Transformation d'espaces publics de villes africaines

Liaisons urbaines est un programme de mise en valeur d'espaces publics de villes africaines, visant à sensibiliser les pouvoirs publics et les aménageurs au soin à apporter à la qualité d'usage et esthétique des espaces du quotidien dans un contexte de mutations urbaines rapides. Inscrit dans une échelle de proximité, ce programme fait intervenir habitants, municipalités, opérateurs culturels et concepteurs locaux afin d'améliorer le cadre de vie urbain par des interventions concrètes.

Le troisième volet de ce programme, suite à ceux de Porto-Novo et N'Djaména, a été livré cette année dans le quartier populaire de Sidi Moumen à Casablanca. Il a porté sur la transformation d'un terre-plein de voirie en jardin de jeux inter-générationnel, dans le cadre d'une opération de construction de nouveaux logements collectifs.

Liaisons urbaines est soutenu par l'Institut français, en collaboration avec la Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine (Paris) et l'EPA - Ecole du patrimoine africain (Porto-Novo).

Site <http://liaisonsurbaines.institutfrancais.com>

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