

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
on
MANAGEMENT PLAN ISSUES IN MEDITERRANEAN
WORLD HERITAGE CITIES - CASE STUDIES

GREECE,
Historical Settlements and their Mediterranean Networks. Management issues.

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The Mediterranean World is as old as history. Towns and villages around the coast of the Mediterranean basin have grown organically and their major characteristics are the strong relationship to natural environment, the importance of their urban fabric, the reflection in their structure of the particular needs and cultures of their communities and their wood and masonry structures. The result is a simple and harmonious architectural system that is both functional and aesthetical rich.

Especially the history and geology of the Aegean Archipelago - that consists one of the oldest regions of the globe - are unique. The Aegean islands towns have been shaped under the threat of piracy and they have born the great civilizations of antiquity from which much of contemporary cultures derive. They had many common economic activities, social and cultural characteristics and traditions.

In our days they are threatened by the excessive tourism development by demographic and social changes and by the loss of their traditional activities and architectural values. Their documentation and evaluation and may be their nomination as World Heritage Sites, separately or as a network could help to the safeguard of their cultural identity.

Absolutely necessary will also be for their protection and their sustainable development a management strategy in dialogue with the inhabitants that should include

- a) Appropriate laws and regulations for preserving their values including their natural environment.
- b) Supporting social measures and economic resources.
- c) Securing the necessary human and material resources.
- d) Promotion of a cultural tourism that will not compromise their cultural values.

References:

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“Mediterranean” by Fernard Braudel.

“Mediterranean Community Architecture” by Myron Goldfinger

“Mediterranean Vernacular” by V. I. Atroshenco and Milton Parkyn