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### Project EACH and Cultural Heritage

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Cultural Heritage was the aim of an important Italian Project on "Cultural Heritage" by CNR (National Research Council) and Ministry of Research investing more than 30 million Euros between 1997 and 2005, unique in Europe for extension and financial support, regarding science and technology applied to Cultural Heritage.

The Project was divided in five Subprojects. Activities concerned about 320 Research Units that worked for about five years, avoiding research fragmentation, with significant exchange of information. The results of these activities are reported in scientific Journals like the Journal of Cultural Heritage (Elsevier) and were presented during events like the International Congress on "Science and Technology for the Safeguard of Cultural Heritage in the Mediterranean Basin" held in Paris in 1999; in Madrid (Alcalà) in 2001 the EuroMediterranean Agency for Cultural Heritage (EACH) was created to prepare a Project that will respect the Cultural Identities of all the Partners and organize no single Research Groups but only common Target Groups shall be financed working in contact with Public Administrations in order to know what they really need. Consequently, Public Administrations shall use the "products" realized by the Target Groups.

The Project ([www.eachproject.eu](http://www.eachproject.eu)) covers most of the scientific and technological applications which may be useful for the safeguard of our common Cultural Patrimony. Its text as a "Preliminary draft" was submitted to the scientific community during the Cultural Heritage 4° Cairo Congress (December 2009) "Science and Technology for the Safeguard of Cultural Heritage of the Mediterranean Basin".

Text was rearranged and re-organized to make it more readable and to favour the insertion of further amendments and enrichments, so that it can be placed in an appropriate way in the next Framework Programme of the European Union in 2015. The Project is divided in four "Activities"<sup>2</sup> in turn divided in 15 "Areas" according to the nomenclature adopted by the European Commission for the present 7th Framework Programme. Single "Areas" contain a number of "Topics" and expected results. The Area x.4.4. is devoted to tourism and economic outcome.

In one of the largest monumental area of the historical Cairo the remarkable architectural complex Mawlawi Dervishes, renovated by Italian funding, was held this meeting ([www.cairocongress.com](http://www.cairocongress.com)). The honorary, scientific and organizing committee composed of

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<sup>2</sup> Activity x1 – Resources of Territory; Activity x2 – Diagnostic and Restoration; Activity x3- Biological Diversity ; Activity x4- Museum Projects and Benefits

many ministries, departments, foundations (especially Italy and North Africa) and bodies such as CNR, CIERA working in the field of Cultural Heritage and its preservation, along with UNESCO, ICCROM and many universities; this event was attended by nearly three hundred and fifty delegates from all world. Almost all of the reports and poster presentations were dedicated to scientific and technological research of Cultural Heritage, to relationship between cultural heritage and local communities, while few oral relations introduced the tourism and Cultural Heritage as tourist product. Indeed, tourists and tourist circulation could be a strategic resource to support the conservation and the present-day use of the past. Italian Geographical Society collaborated actively in the work of this International Congress. Among the many scholars, geographers Italians who, in memory of Adalberto Vallega commitment on issues of Cultural Heritage, contributed to the scientific quality of the event.



**Fig. 1: Mawlawi Dervishes Center**

In this occasion Angelo Guarino, President of the Congress and of AIC (Investing In Culture) - EACH Project, together with Franco Salvatori, President of the Italian Geographical Society ([www.societageografica.it](http://www.societageografica.it)) delivered the Adalberto Vallega Award to Fiorella Dallari ([www.unibo.it/docenti/fiorella.dallari](http://www.unibo.it/docenti/fiorella.dallari)), professor of Political and Economic Geography of Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna and teacher at the Faculty of Economy - Rimini Campus, researcher that has devoted her studies to tourism and local tourism development. Thus Cultural Heritage has been central and the focus of her creative and applied research and innovative teaching, and for the studies addressed to the cultural routes in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin.

Before that meeting, three important Congresses were held in Europe between 1995 and 2001 promoted and organized by this Special Project “Cultural Heritage” of the Ministry of University and Research of Italy and the National Research Council (CNR). The first Congress was held in Catania (380 participants and 280 oral presentations), to assess the “state of art” of scientific applications to the safeguard of Cultural Heritage; the second one was held in Paris (500 participants and 201 oral presentations), opening section inside the Louvre Museum, in collaboration with the “Centre national de la recherche scientifique”, (CNRS) and

the University of Nanterre. The third one was held in Spain, in collaboration with the “Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas”, (CSIC), and the University of Alcalà de Henares (480 participants and 303 oral presentation). The next Congress is scheduled in Istanbul in October 2011. To complete the round trip around the Mediterranean Sea, the last Congress of this series will be held in Athens in 2014.



Fig. 2: Istanbul 2011 Congress logo