

CARISMED

Capitalisation for Re-setting Innovation and Sustainability in MED-Cities

FIRSTNEWSLETTER: The Carismed Project News, 2022



Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to present you the first CARISMED Project Newsletter that covers the first six months period of the project, and introduce you to the project. CARISMED is one-of-a-kind initiative whose general goal is to capitalize on the outcomes and deliverables of five finished and ongoing projects, namely; INNOMED-UP, MAIA-TAQA, SME4SMARTCITIES, DigiCirc, as well UNDERGROUND4VALU. More specifically, this project seeks to establish urban policies for increasing sustainability and integrating innovation into the urban settings of Mediterranean cities in order to restructure living and working circumstances effectively. CARISMED is one of the 80 projects funded by the European Union under the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme (2014 2022-) by the European Union through the European Neighborhood Instrument (<http://www.enicbcmmed.eu/>). This project has been started on 23rd of November, 2021, and will be ended on 22nd of November, 2023. It was officially kicked-off on 28th & 29th of January, 2022. Our inaugural newsletter introduces the project's partners by providing a brief summary of each partner institution, its objective, and area of expertise. Furthermore, this newsletter emphasizes each partner's position in the project as well as the type of contribution it will make in its field of activity. This newsletter also explains where project activities will take place in each country/city and the importance of the area/location chosen to the overall aim of the project. Among the many important Project Outputs, hereby, it is worth mentioning the most extroverted are: at least 8 SMEs of CCI participating in awareness and training activities, 8 underutilized or abandoned urban stocks refurbished as a creative studio/lab, 40 SMES will upgrade their capacities benefiting from workshops, toolkits and advisory guides that published on upcycling buildings and areas. All project partners are currently working on assessing cross-border project synergies and preparing an Urban Context Report based on a desk assessment of relevant past and ongoing projects. Then, in addition to a scenario analysis, a diagnostic map of degraded and underutilized buildings and areas in Med-Cities will determinate. As such, CARISMED aspires to create urban policies that will improve sustainability and integrate innovation into the urban environments of Mediterranean cities. It is expected to promote innovative CE methodologies for re-setting the built environment, improve sustainability, and integrate CCI SMEs clustering innovation into the urban setting at Med-Cities. I am relieved that we are back to normal life after nearly two years of COVID-19-related lockdowns. I hope that the project's activities go off without a hitch or stumbling block, and that the project plan goes according to the approved timetable schedule.

Shadi Ghadban, PHD Architect
Project Coordinator



Spain, Murcia



Irbid, Jordan



Palermo, Italy



Hebron, Palestine.



Tunis, Tunisia



Athens, Greece



Birzeit University (BZU) in brief:

Founded on the principles of excellence and opportunity for all, Birzeit University (BZU) has become Palestine's leading academic institution. It is an academic powerhouse, with a clear focus on excellence that has secured its national and international recognition unparalleled with other established institutions. Birzeit University is a vibrant community of scholarship and learning that stands in the service of the country and the community.

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology is with great project implementation experience & expertise in the fields of engineering, architecture, urban planning, creative economy, waste management, institutional capacity building. They will undertake the responsibilities of methodological issues, integration of new technologies & access to innovation through training.

Follow the link for more information about BZU: <https://www.birzeit.edu/>

Why you have been selected to be part of CARISMED/ your role in the project?

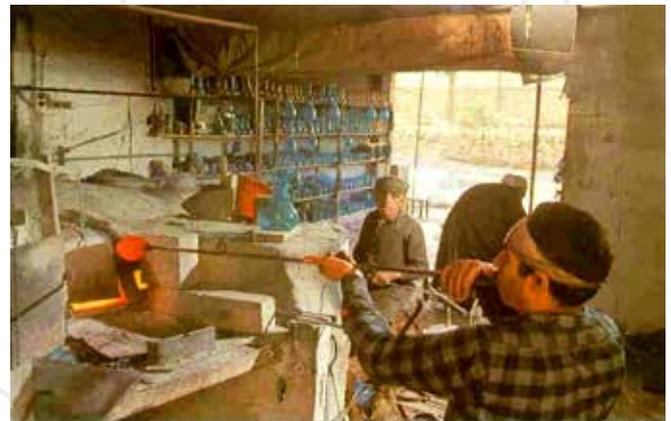
BZU has long and successful experience in ENI CBC MED projects during the period 2013 – 2021, mainly through its participation and achievements in MEDNETA project (2013 – 2015) and in the ongoing INNOMED-UP project. In additions, BZU is maintaining continues and fruitful contacts with several participants in CARISMED at personal and institutional level, a fact that allows the university to apply as leader beneficiary of CARISMED.

BZU is the lead and monitor the project implementation ensuring coordination with all partners in the implementation. Specifically, BZU is responsible for the Managerial and Technical contributions to WP1 activities, regarding the entire management of the project. Moreover, BZU will be conducting Capitalisation activities at local/national level

Location of the project activities

Throughout its implementation, the project will adopt Hebron City as a pilot area of CARISMED in Palestine. The city of Hebron is one of the oldest cities in the world, and the largest in the West Bank. Its old town considered as the vibrant part of it and has always been a terminal of tourists, commercial, and religious destination. It is characterized by its narrow, winding streets, flat-roofed stone houses, and old bazaars that had been named after crafts they were famous of; for instance: Kazazin (Glass craftsmen) neighborhood, the Hadadeen (blacksmith) market, and so on.

The city has won the “international artisan city for the year 2016” certificate by the International Crafts Council due to its distinguished long history making the original Palestinian heritage and traditional crafts. As well as, the traditional architecture of the old city, which goes back to the Mamluk and Ottoman periods, witnesses to the development and sophistication of the city.





National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) in brief:

The National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) is the oldest and most prestigious public university in Greece. It has contributed unceasingly to the country's scientific, technical and economic development since its foundation in 1837. It boasts for 9 Schools, 512 faculty members, 4.090 external collaborators, 23.914 students and 300.000 sqm of research infrastructures. According to the QS World Universities Ranking (2016), NTUA is the leading academic institution in Greece and the only one in the top 400 institutions worldwide at the 67th place among technological universities. 194 laboratories operate at NTUA, and 1423 national and European funded research Projects were implemented in 2015.

NTUA is participating in CARISMED Project with the School of Architectural Engineering, represented by:

(a) The Spatial Planning and Urban Development Laboratory.

(b) The Urban and Architectural Design Laboratory integrating New Methods and Technologies.

One of its main goals is the fostering of experimental ideas that are tested through applied research; thus, establishing links among the societal needs, economic demands and the educational process at a national, cross-border and international level.

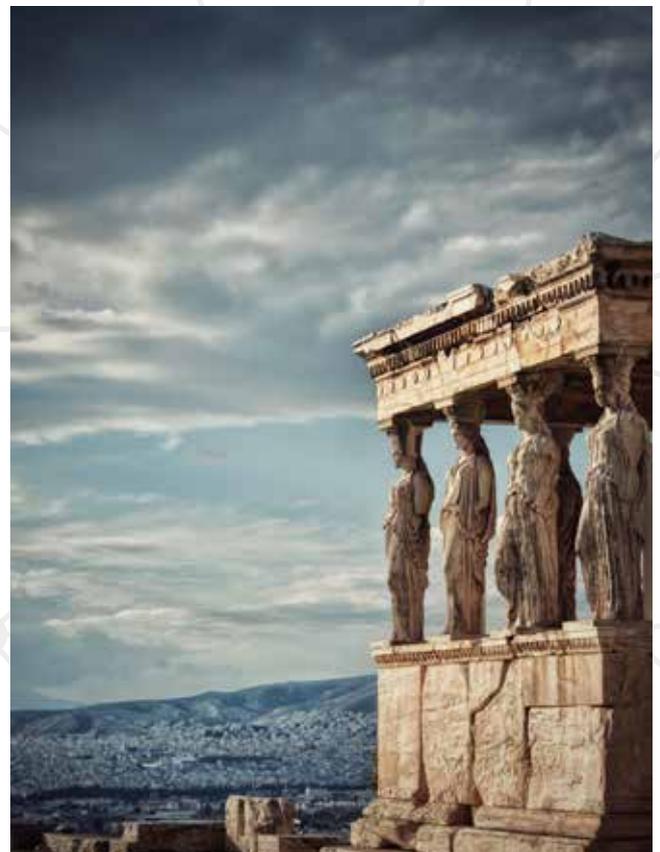
Why NTUA has been selected to be part in CARISMED/ role in the Project ?

NTUA brings into the CARISMED Partnership, its previous vast experience with ENI CBC MED Projects introducing the principles of sustainable development and contemporary practices of circular economy. Using (cross/multi-)disciplinary scientific approaches, NTUA's expertise can contribute in enhancing:

- (a) The Mediterranean cultural networks through the cross-border cultural dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders in order to support the creativity of arts, crafts and design (ACDs) as an instrument for the regeneration of communities located in the historical cities.
- (b) The cost-effective and innovative energy rehabilitations of buildings through knowledge sharing on energy rehabilitation by encouraging behavioral change in people, as well as by impacting on local policies through lobbying and advocacy to integrate the pilots' results in relevant policy frameworks.
- (c) The shift of local urban economies towards a circular production and consumption paradigm including optimal use of material resources, innovation enhancement for small-medium enterprises of Cultural Creative Industries (CCI SMEs), knowledge transfer, social inclusion and citizens' engagement.

Location of the project activities

The pilot case study will be located in the center of Athens (Greece).





Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES) in brief:

The Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRES) is the Greek national centre for Renewable Energy Sources (RES), Rational Use of Energy (RUE) and Energy Saving (ES). CRES was founded in September 1987 and has been appointed as the national co-ordination centre in its areas of activity.

It is a public entity, supervised by the Ministry of Environment and Energy and has financial and administrative independence. Its main goal is the promotion of RES/RUE/ES applications at a national and international level, as well as the support of related activities taking into consideration the principles of sustainable development.

CRES operates in two main fields of activity:

As the National Energy Centre,

Working on energy planning and policy for RES, RUE and ES in accordance with the policy of the Ministry of Environment and Energy and developing the necessary infrastructure for the realisation of RES/RUE/ES investment projects.

As a Research and Technological Centre for RES/RUE/ES,

Through applied research on new energy technologies and by technically supporting the market for the penetration and implementation of these technologies.

Why CRES has been selected to be part in CARISMED/ your role in the project ?

CRES brings into CARISMED partnership its vast experience in the implementation of EU funded energy efficiency projects in the Mediterranean basin as well its extensive network of relevant stakeholders. More specifically, CARISMED will capitalize on methodologies, tools and practices developed by CRES in the framework of past or ongoing projects focusing on improving sustainability, promoting circular economy principles / upcycling and integrating innovation into buildings and urban settings in Mediterranean cities. CASRIMED will also create direct links with MAIA-TAQA, an ongoing ENI CBC Med project focusing on the deployment of innovative resource efficiency services in Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan and coordinated by CRES.

CRES brings into CARISMED partnership its vast experience in the implementation of EU funded energy efficiency projects in the Mediterranean basin as well its extensive network of relevant stakeholders. More specifically, CARISMED will capitalize on methodologies, tools and practices developed by CRES in the framework of past or ongoing projects focusing on improving sustainability, promoting circular economy principles / upcycling and integrating innovation into buildings and urban settings in Mediterranean cities. CASRIMED will also create direct links with MAIA-TAQA, an ongoing ENI CBC Med project focusing on the deployment of innovative resource efficiency services in Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan and coordinated by CRES.

Location of the project activities

The pilot city will be Athens



Business Innovation Centre of Murcia (CEEIM) in brief:

CEEIM (www.ceeim.es), the European Business Innovation Centre of Murcia (South East of Spain), is a non-profit Foundation that aims at creating and implementing innovative methodologies in the field of entrepreneurship and business creation, specifically meeting technology-based start-ups' needs.

CEEIM's main mission is to promote and develop the necessary economic, social, and innovative activities, in order to stimulate and support technological business initiatives. In that regard, CEEIM addresses problems that innovative businesses face in accessing appropriate technology knowledge, market information, management assistance and access to capital, by providing reasonably priced office space, shared services to reduce overhead costs, and business, technical and funding mentoring.

CEEIM is promoting entrepreneurship and innovation on society by means of different kind of programs, events, training, workshops, courses and projects.

The main objectives of CEEIM are:

- Developing entrepreneurial spirit in society and Promoting entrepreneurship at early ages.
- Attracting tech talent and supporting entrepreneurs in the creation of innovative businesses.
- Attracting funding for innovative and technology-based companies.
- Acceleration and internationalisation of innovative technology-based companies.

Furthermore, CEEIM counts with an International Initiatives department with a vast experience in the participation of European Projects and programmes (H2020, COSME, INTERREG EUROPE, INTERREG SUDOE, ENI CBC MED, ERASMUS +...). It has taken part in more than 25 projects, as both Coordinator and beneficiary, creating, adapting and implementing methodologies for supporting entrepreneurs and business creation, for accelerating technology-based companies, or working in the funding access scheme for SMEs, etc.

Reason why CEEIM has been selected to be part in CARISMED/your role in the project ?

CEEIM has been selected as a European Business Innovation Center, located in the Mediterranean city of Murcia in the South-East of Spain and for its experience in business support services to technology-based start-ups and SMEs.

Furthermore, CEEIM counts with a consolidated network of stakeholders within the regional ecosystem, composed of Councils, universities, educational centers, chambers of commerce, development agencies, technology park, scientific park, employment agencies, clusters and associations to address the challenges related to innovation, business and entrepreneurship, in line with the project objectives and activities.

Finally, CEEIM has a vast experience in international projects, especially as coordinator of the SME4SMARTCITIES project, from the ENI CBC MED Programme, as one of the projects CARISMED is capitalizing on and addresses the challenges of the Mediterranean cities by supporting the collaboration between SMEs and public sector in making the cities smarter and developing innovative sustainable solutions.

In that regard, CEEIM will be the responsible of the Work Package on Pilot Model and open markets for Cultural Creative Industries SMEs, to foster synergies among multi-stakeholders and professionals and forming clusters of SMEs to set up some creative studios in underutilized or abandoned urban stock in each partner Mediterranean city.

Location of the project activities

The project activities will take place in Murcia City, in the South-East of Spain.





Center for Economic and Social Research for the South of Italy (CRESM) in brief:

CRESM is a non-profit social cooperative based in Sicily (Palermo and Valle del Belice). It has a 50 years experience in local and rural development planning, community regeneration, migration and social inclusion. It was founded in 1973 in Palermo by a group of social workers and activists, in the framework of the Sicilian non-violent movement, in order to support a conscious local development.

CRESM activities address farmers, entrepreneurs, youth, and vulnerable groups (unemployed, migrants, ex-offenders, disabled) in Italy and in the Mediterranean area.

In Palermo CRESM promotes the initiative “Nuove Officine alla Zisa” (New Workshops at Zisa) - NOZ which is:

- a 1.200 sqm open space for crafts and technological workshops involving both migrants and Italians;
- a research center for artisan techniques and eco-compatible natural materials;
- an info-point for consultation of SMEs devoted to the promotion of entrepreneurial culture, corporate responsibility and sustainable innovation through Circular Economy Principles.

Why you have been selected to be part in CARISMED/your role in the project ?

CRESM contributes to the CARISMED partnership with its long-lasting experience in local development and support to SMEs in Sicily, Southern Italy and in the Mediterranean basin where it has a broad stakeholder network.

CRESM brings skills and experience, developed, among others, in the framework of ongoing and completed ENI CBC MED projects, about the regeneration in historical cities through creativity and creative SMEs (CCI) based, in particular, on Circular Economy principles.

CARISMED will specifically capitalise on methodologies and tools developed in the framework of INNOMED-UP, an ongoing ENI CBC Med project focusing on the role of CCI SMEs in the development of Circular Economy clusters in the Mediterranean city-centres.

Location of the project activities

The pilot city will be Palermo.

Palermo - Location of the Info-point for the consultation of SMEs at NOZ (Innomed-up project)





National Research Council of Italy - Institute for Studies on the Mediterranean of Italy (ISMed) in brief:

The Institute for Mediterranean Studies (ISMed) is one of the most recent institutes of the CNR. ISMed is inspired by a vision of a Mediterranean of peace and prosperity, based on the values that unite the countries of the area. In particular the Sicilian research group deals with research and training in Ecology and Economy, and also promote and participate in many initiatives to spread scientific culture on the theme of biodiversity in festivals, meetings, theme days, with projects, processing agreements, development plans, also working on the theme of social inclusion and on sensory disabilities.

Why ISMed has been selected to be part in CARISMED your role in the project?

Our mission is to identify and analyze the dynamics of the socio-economic growth and development processes of the countries of the Mediterranean area. Through a strongly interdisciplinary and long-term approach, ISMed's research focuses on specific topics such as the environment, economic and social development, logistics and transport, urban development and the diffusion of technologies, artistic and cultural heritage. Our scientific mission led us to the CARISMED project to make a contribution to the sustainable development of companies connected to our territory, with the opportunity to include them in a network of culturally and socially similar initiatives in order to experiment useful tools for their sustainable development.



Location of the project activities

The pilot city will be Palermo





Collectif Créatif in brief:

The Collectif Créatif (CC) was built around a group of people whose paths crossed on several occasions in different spots in the Medina of Tunis: Dar Ben Gacem, Dar Bach Hamba, Dar Lasram, Nokta, Doolesha, or else the café El Amba.

In a context of socio-cultural vibrancy in post-revolutionary Tunisia, the Medina is the ideal place to bring these meetings to fruition, thanks to its potential to foster the development of alternative cultures and to bring together the various ongoing initiatives. Driven by the need to further develop these dynamics and structure them, while operating in an open space for new ideas within a participatory approach, this community came together to collaborate through this organization, which was legally registered in 2016.

CC has been committed to sharing resources, know-how and skills with the community through its different initiatives and activities. Indeed, this organization has created an organic space for experimentation that now extends beyond the gates of the Medina.

The Association Collectif Créatif works on the development of emerging creative professions, particularly in the fields of design and ecology, visual and digital arts, with a view to promoting social cohesion and experimenting with diversity in the local community.

Since its creation, CC has carried out projects with and for the local community,

- Dar El Collectif: a platform, an inclusive space at the service of the Association's community. The space allows the implementation of activities around creative and design professions. The space includes a co-working space, an exhibition space, a design and material workshop, a digital design workshop and an audiovisual studio.
- Fantek: a digital art workshop project launched in 2018.
- El Warcha: A collaborative design workshop in La Hafsia and Nefta that aims to promote education and civic practices through the collective manufacture of urban and ecological furniture and through artistic installations with local residents;

Since its creation, CC has carried out projects with and for the local community,

- Interference (IT Tunis): a Light art Festival. IT Tunis promotes interdisciplinary exchanges within a diverse range of communities such as young artists, artistic mediators, artistic assistants, and young people of The Medina in the process of production of digital installations.
- PSSKCH-Community Outreach: A program that aims to engage the local community around the activities and projects carried out by CC through creating an inclusive cultural space in The Medina.
- “Dour wahdek”: A mobile app offering an alternative urban guided tour in the Medina; this project was set up following the completion of the “Doura fel houma” project, led by the young people of Hafsia to create a personalized urban tour of the Medina.
- Ecologic: a design project that aims to initiate a dialectic around sustainable design by supporting, each year, a group of young designers in the process of experimentation, prototyping and valorization of results;
- CC media: along with the upgrade of the CC website, this media platform offers content in different formats; written, audio (podcasts) and videos that mainly cover the activities of the association but also the local cultural dynamics;



Why Collectif Creatif?

The Medina of Tunis, or the historical urban quarter of Tunis, was founded around the 7th century. Today, it embraces hundreds of artisan workshops, hundreds of abandoned collapsed historical built stock, and is in urgent need for urban revival.

In the past 5 years, Medina benefitted from various projects, with important Medina data, that is being used as basis for CARSIMED's activities.

Some of the above mentioned projects were:

- MEDNETA project, during which we mapped all artisan workshops, and highlighted urban market place challenges and opportunities.
- FEMMEDINA project, which mapped the Medina from women's prospective, and recommendations for better urban and public building stock use, to improve women's participation; Sea the last destination, which highlighted environmental challenges impacting communities.
- INNOMED-Up, which mapped historical collapsed building, analyzed their ownership, and opportunities for circular economy clusters.

Collectif Creatif was always present in all projects related to Medina, as a community driver and youth empowering institution. Thus, CC's involvement in those projects, was through active participation, stakeholders or members of the steering and implementation teams.



Future Pioneers for Empowering Communities' Members (FPEC) in brief:

Is a local Jordanian Non-profit organization established on March 20, 2012 with the aim to overcome poverty and contribute to human development in the most remote areas in Jordan. The main thematic areas of our work include socio-economic empowerment of women and youth, community dialogue, civic engagement, Climate change adaptation measures, Waste management, renewable energy, and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), while human rights, gender, and environment remain crosscutting themes in all our work. In most of our projects we target women, youth and marginalized groups – identified as most in need of our services.

Ever since its establishment, FPEC has also been closely involved in supporting the most marginalized groups in host communities, including both Syrian and Jordanian women, youth and young females, through life and economic skills programs improving these groups' employability.

We empower communities through long-term investment in local people in five key thematic areas:

- Socio-economic empowerment of marginalized groups, including women and girls.
- Green Economy and climate change adaptation.
- Environmental conservation and promotion of environmentally sustainable practices, including water governance and waste management.
- Civic Engagement of Women, Youth, and Marginalized Groups.
- Community dialogue and conflict resolution, and Waste Management.

Why FPEC has been selected to be part in CARISMED/ your role in the project ?

FPEC is an active partner in INNOMED-UP project which is one of the pillars of CARISMED project. INNOMED-UP aims to propose a strategy for Med-cities, where Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) SMEs create Circular Economy (CE) clusters locally and participate at cross border innovation networks thus promoting urban and social inclusion.

FPEC managed to build the capacities of 31 SMEs/activists in Irbid City to adopt CE practices and come up with innovative products.

FPEC have been selected to be the National Member for ISWA from Jordan on Sep, 2017 which facilitated the dissemination of results.

Location of the project activities

The pilot city will be Irbid .



CARISMED project is implemented under the ENI CBC “Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme” (<http://www.enicbcmmed.eu>).
Its total budget is 1.1 million Euro and it is financed for an amount of 1 million Euro by the European Union through the ENI CBC MED Programme.

