

CARISMED

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

FIFTH NEWSLETTER: The Carismed Project News, 2024- Additional Issue

Dear readers,

This newsletter is issued in the final stage of Carismed project in order to highlight the most important recent events that culminated the efforts of two entire years, during which the project's partners devoted most of their energies and knowledge to achieve the goals that the project set in mind, whether in the fields of research and documentation, analysis of the rich creative and cultural heritage that old Mediterranean cities have, or in the field of training and refining the skills necessary to move this heritage into the space of the circular economy, or smart environment and green architecture, or in the field of low-cost adaptive reuse through the creation of expressive models embraced by the six cities participating in the project and compatible with the economic, professional, creative and cultural space for each participating city.

For all of this, this newsletter has been dedicated to covering the work of the final conference and the final advisory committee meeting that took place on 2023/12/20-19, which were hosted remotely by Birzeit University on its campus. The newsletter is also briefly presenting the creative laboratories developed by the partners in the project's member cities.

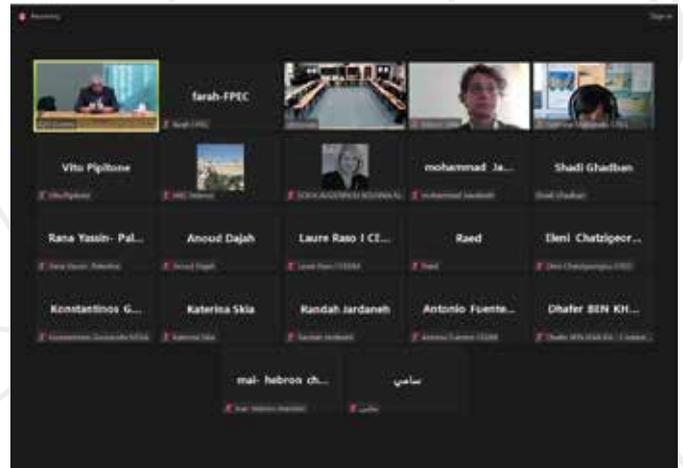
All appreciation and gratitude to all partners and partner institutions and to the owners of the creative and cultural industries in Irbid, Athens, Murcia, Palermo, Tunis and Hebron for the distinguished achievements they have achieved, which we hope will leave their influential footprint on the path of these industries around the Mediterranean. All thanks and appreciation for your support during the various circumstances that Carismed Project family has experienced on its path to reaching the desired goal.

Dr. Shadi Sami Ghadban
Carismed Project Manager
Birzeit University
Palestine



Final Capitalization Conference

Date: 19 of December 2023



Project Main Achievements:

Dr. Shadi Ghadban, LB Coordinator- Birzeit University, presented the final results achieved by CARISMED project partners. The presentation covered a summary of the entire duration of the project providing an introduction to CARISMED project aim, location, budget, general and specific objectives, the project partnership, methodology and motivations: systematic cross-border leverage of CCI SMEs' production novelties and synergies, cooperation through the implementation of circular economy principles, smart technology and green architecture approaches; community policy and legislation, protection of the environment and sustainable development, entrepreneurial culture, business innovation in society, and training and transfer of best practices and experiences.

He clarified the synergies with the projects that have been capitalized during the project duration, and gave an overview of the project work-packages, major fields of capitalization. Afterward, Dr. Ghadban highlighted the various figures achieved through the project period, concentrating on the participatory/ living activities and the digital platform. The main achievements are: six (6) Pilot Clusters- one per city, more than 60 SMES contributed to the project's activities, over 120 stakeholders and six (6) MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) signed, public/ socio-urban awareness activities delivered in six (6) consolidation workshops one per city, six (6) training courses- one per city, two (2) Info points in Palermo and Irbid- as continuation of INNOMED-UP Outcomes.

Furthermore, three Guides: Toolkit/advisory Guide of Urban Policy for Med-cities, Guide for Low-cost Adaptive Reuse Strategy (LCARS) in the Mediterranean, and Guide for clusters resetting to cross-border cooperation and access to financing tools, are also ready for dissemination.

The conference included two important keynotes

Prof. Afif Hasaan- Birzeit University: who delivered a presentation about the "Green architecture and current trends in Palestine" .

Mr. Imad Hamdan – General Director - Hebron Rehabilitation Committee who presented "Preserving cultural heritage as one of the sustainable resources: The experiment of Hebron Rehabilitation Committee".



Final Steering Committee MEETING

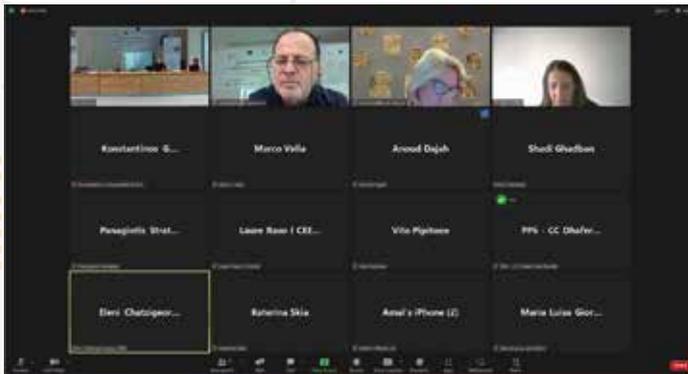
Date: 20th of December 2023

This is the final steering committee meeting for CARISMED project and it constituted an opportunity for the LB and partners to review the progress of the different work packages, challenges, delays and how to overcome such challenges to close the project successfully while achieving all planned results of this important project. Despite the strong management of the LB-BZU, several delays faced the project as the project duration was short in general and the first semester was mainly preparations for the next activities. This has affected the completion of the communication activities as majority of the social media posts, videos and campaigns are related to the actual implementation of the project activities on ground. The same goes for the different awareness workshops, guidelines and platform. through the close cooperation of all partners, the project managed to meet all the planned outputs.

This was associated with the extensive efforts to complete the different work packages mainly:

- **WP2 Resume**, A final evaluation was prepared for the communication and visibility plan which showed clearly that the project managed to achieve the set targets including: three awareness campaigns, five newsletters, 22 videos, 30 press releases. number of published posts were 187 posts, 1260 followers while the target was 200. The two info points in Palermo and Irbid are functioning very well and continue to serve the SMEs and interested beneficiaries

- **WP3 Resume**, The result of the successful completion of this wrappage is a Toolkit/ advisory guide of Urban Policy for Med-cities, which will support and effectively help all interested parties: to get familiar with the CE concept and contemporary practices that manage to combine the sustainability principles with Creativity, focusing on a more eco-friendly and innovative economy; also, to get familiar with innovative methods and techniques that gradually create the very dynamic field of the upcycling productivity; and to be more aware of (LCARs). She mentioned that CARISMED Toolkit / Advisory Guide is suited for the resetting of the built environment both in the business content and in the building shell.



- **WP4 Resume**, The information provided by each partner have been combined in a consolidated report presenting a strategic framework among CCI SMEs clusters at cross-border level for cooperation and capitalization, as well as guidelines for local cooperation between clusters' members in each Med-City. The analysis of each local cluster and of SMEs' training needs defined the framework for the adaptation and application of LCARs in each local context. Each partner released training activities involving at least 8 SMEs representatives.

- **WP5 Resume**, Under this work package Key stakeholders and CCI SMEs clusters cooperation framework has been established through conducting consolidation workshops and signing MOUs in each participating Med City enabling and engaging all interested parties. This has facilitated the local exchanges and meetings with relevant stakeholders to determine the scope and the locations/spaces of the pilot & Identification of the pilot activities, and its implementation by the end of the project. New green and Smart supply chain in the buildings chosen (underutilized or abandoned urban stock with implemented LCARs), operated by CCI SMEs cluster settled in the 6 creative studios/labs: open market, and a training of the CCI SMEs and the rest of stakeholders

LCARs Creative Space

BZU LCARs Creative Space

The Center for Tourism, Heritage and Antiquities (Abu Khalaf building) in the old town of Hebron is selected to host the Innovation and Creativity Studio Lab, in this building owned by the municipality of Hebron renovated by H.R.C. The building contains two floors and an outdoor garden. The studio lab located at the ground level and adjacent to the outdoor garden, and thus provide a chance to benefit from the outer space for various related activities. To implement the Innovation and Creativity Studio Lab, BZU team focused its interventions on the designing and executing the functional elements of the Indoor and Outdoor Spaces. This was achieved by applying principles of Circular Economy, Smart Systems, Green Architecture, and Sustainable Practices.



The executed works done on site are: Installation of solar energy system, installation of electrical and mechanical smart system, and a customized furnishing elements for the studio lab and the garden spaces by engaging CCI SMEs in Hebron, in the production of these components.



CEEIM LCARs Creative Space

In Murcia, the LCARS creative space is centred on the promotion and enhancement of sustainability practices in urban setting, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Our objective was to strengthen the development of business models that incorporate the sustainability as a transversal component: from the business idea/plan itself to the business activities in all the ICC SMEs participating to the project activities by means of training programmes and workshops. Furthermore, the implementation of LCARS is also meaningful to raise awareness on circular economy practices and showcase the possibilities that low-cost adaptive reuse strategy brings for entities to upgrade an underused area/building/space.



The space dedicated to the pilot activities that has been upgraded following the LCARs model, is located within the main building of the incubator of startups of CEEIM and the objective is to use it as a multi-disciplinary and versatile creative studio for any entity wishing to operate occasionally in there. It will become a modifiable space where companies, clusters and other entities can meet creativity and innovation.

The Creative area named "Nebula" is meant to host a wide range of activities and events including Trainings programmes and Awareness workshops on innovation and competitiveness, showcasing how sustainability is a key element for the business growth and investment and a Co-working area for entrepreneurs and start-ups to create synergies with other peers sharing a common area to exchange and mutualize resources and skills, leading to the development of new products, services, or solutions.

LCARs Creative Space

FPEC LCARs Creative Sapace

Based on signing the MOU with Greater Irbid Municipality and based on the completion of the LCARS training for the 12 SMEs, Future Pioneers developed the LCARS strategy for Al-Zahra'a Park in an interactive video to showcase possible ideas and measures that can be implemented and to show the before and after options of applying the LCARS measures.



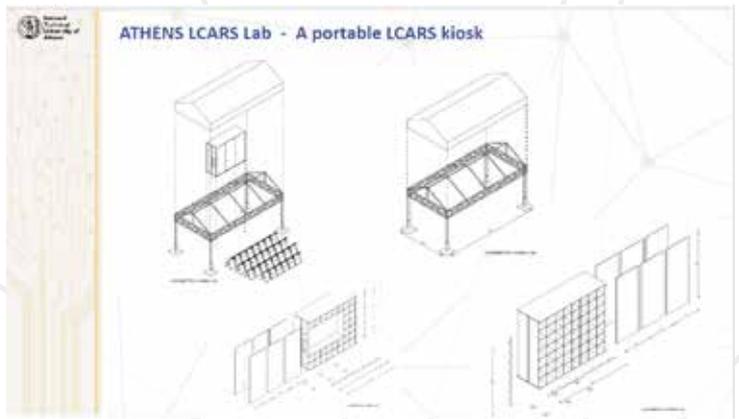
Accordingly, The actual work started on Oct 15th , 2023 which included tiling , plastering, painting, electrical works , and the landscape. This was supported by the furnishing of the building with attractive recycled furniture produced by the trained SMEs. the building was launched by the Mayor ; Dr. Nabeel Al-Kofahi who was impressed with the results and the concept of LCARS.



NTUA / CRES LCARs Creative Sapace

CRES in collaboration with NTUA successfully organized a training event titled **"Circular Economy practices and tools for the built environment in Mediterranean Cities"** in Athens, on 11.12.2023.

Representatives of the Greek partners CRES and NTUA, and ATHENS ANAPLASI S.A. (member of Greek SAG), presented the principles of the LCARS methodology, the main results of the project, legal and regulatory aspects at national and local level, key challenges and prospects for renovating the existing building stock, best practice examples of sustainable renovation in Greece, and synergies with the MAIA-TAQA and INNOMED-UP projects. Several stakeholders attend the meeting and were encouraged to join CARISMED cluster and implement LCARS methodology to renovate their workspaces.



LCARs Creative Space

CC LCARs Creative Sapace

The inaugural event held at Dar El Collectif Maker Space, titled "Awareness Workshop for Stakeholders & CCI SMEs Cluster Members," marked a pivotal moment in the CARISMED project's journey. The collaborative event, taking place on December 9th and 10th, envisioned a strategic and iterative process for developing an active cluster within Dar El Collectif. Born from discussions during the consolidation workshop, the event seamlessly blended the roles of an expo and an awareness initiative, creating a festive Christmas market atmosphere to showcase the potential of the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) community. Crucially, this event is not a one-time occurrence but the beginning of a series of initiatives fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and advocacy around abandoned buildings in the Medina. The consolidation workshop set the stage for this event, allowing the cluster to organically grow and develop priorities and collaboration mechanisms. This deliberate approach recognizes the importance of aligning the cluster's objectives with the dynamic needs of the community and the ever-changing Medina landscape.

CRSEM/ Ismed LCARs Creative Sapace

CRSEM in cooperation with Ismed organized a participatory realization of the Studio cluster with the involved CCI SMEs; this included:

- LCARS techniques used;
- Optimization of reused materials;
- Open source projects;
- Co-design and construction.



This was followed by implementing a Consolidation workshop with CCI SMEs and stakeholders.

Based on the above results, the LCARs measures were applied on CRSEM premises and created a studio lab for SMEs within their place integrated with the existing info-points.

As the cluster takes root in Dar El Collectif, this event acts as a catalyst for future collaborations, providing a platform for the organic development of shared goals and initiatives. The repetition of such events will solidify the cluster's presence and contribute to advocacy efforts surrounding abandoned buildings. This long-term vision positions the consolidation workshop as a foundational step in cultivating a sustainable and impactful cluster, actively contributing to the revitalization and preservation of the Medina.

