



MEDINA

PHOENICIAN and NABATAEAN

INSCRIPTIONS

MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK

for the valorization and fruition of

INSCRIPTIONS PRESERVED IN MUSEUMS

WWW.MEDINAPROJECT-EPIGRAPHY.EU

WHAT IS **MEDINA**?

MEDINA is a two-year project funded by **ENPI CBC MED**, the European Union cross-border cooperation programme in the Mediterranean region. Between 2012 and 2014, the **MEDINA** project will bring ancient Phoenician and Nabataean texts back to life in museums in Jordan and Lebanon through a series of research, education, and dissemination activities. Using the expertise of an international team of partners, **MEDINA will promote knowledge and understanding of these inscriptions, particularly within Lebanese and Jordanian populations.**

WHO IS **MEDINA**?

MEDINA is implemented by a consortium of five partners across four different countries: **The University of Pisa** (Italy), **Gaia Heritage** (Lebanon), **Yarmouk University** (Jordan), **Institute of Ancient Near East Studies**, IPOA, at the University of Barcelona (Spain) and **Magoproduction** (Spain). Together, these partners provide expertise in archaeology and research, cultural heritage development, and design.

The background of the page is a photograph of ancient stone carvings, likely from a sarcophagus. The carvings are arranged in horizontal bands. The top band features a row of small, stylized figures. Below this, there are larger, more detailed carvings of human figures in various poses, some appearing to be in conversation or performing a ritual. The stone is a light, weathered color. A large, solid red diagonal shape cuts across the left side of the image, partially obscuring the carvings and serving as a design element for the text layout.

WHY MEDINA?

The **Phoenician and Nabataean** civilizations were people of remarkable cultural sophistication, developing alphabets that spread across the region and generating an important epigraphic and artistic wealth. Their surviving texts date back to the end of the second millennium BCE and portray mysterious alphabets from languages that have not been spoken for thousands of years. Today, their alphabets serve as important origins of several regional languages. Nabataean writing was highly influential in the development of modern Arabic script, while the Phoenician language can be found in classical Greek and Latin literature as well as in Egyptian, Akkadian, and Hebrew writings.

MEDINA believes that there is much to gain from a better understanding of these ancient languages. Lack of available information and of interest in epigraphy have made it hard for people, especially younger generations, to develop an appreciation for this cultural heritage. **MEDINA** will strive to overcome these challenges by making information more widely available and presenting it in a way that allows people to find connections between these ancient cultures and their own.

WHERE IS MEDINA?

Jordan was home to the Nabataeans and houses much of the civilization's most extraordinary heritage, including Petra, the Nabataean rock-cut capital city. The **Museum of Jordanian Heritage** at Yarmouk University will serve as the project's target museum in Jordan. The museum contains an impressive collection of Nabataean artefacts and inscriptions, demonstrating three major themes in Nabataean culture: development of Nabataean scripts, Nabataean innovative pottery, and Nabataean decorative art.

The Phoenician civilization spread throughout the Mediterranean region during its time; however, several of its key port cities are found within modern Lebanon: Tyre, Sidon, and Byblos. The **Beirut National Museum**, Lebanon's primary archaeology museum, boasts a Phoenician epigraphy collection that features many notable inscriptions, including the Sarcophagus of King Ahiaram, which dates back to the 10th Century BCE and is the oldest known evidence of the Phoenician alphabet.



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**ENPI
CBCMED**

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



MEDINA
PHOENICIAN and NABATAEAN
INSCRIPTIONS

Partners MEDINA Project



MAGOPRODUCTION

Contact

**DIPARTIMENTO DI CIVILTÀ
E FORME DEL SAPERE**
Università di Pisa

Via Paoli 15
56124 PISA
ITALY

PROJECT COORDINATOR
Prof. Alessandra Avanzini
avanzini@sta.unipi.it

CONTACT PERSON
Costanza Odierna
Researcher
c.odierna@sta.unipi.it
Elena Murelli
murelli.elena@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
info@medinaproject-epigraphy.eu

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The 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The Programme objective is to promote the sustainable and harmonious cooperation process at the Mediterranean Basin level by dealing with the common challenges and enhancing its endogenous potential. It finances cooperation projects as a contribution to the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of the Mediterranean region. The following 14 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestinian Authority, Portugal, Spain, Syria, Tunisia. The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French.

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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