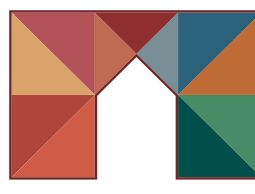




Project funded by the **EUROPEAN UNION**



ENPI CBCMED
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



MEDINA
PHOENICIAN and NABATAEAN
INSCRIPTIONS

MEDINA

MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK FOR THE VALORIZATION AND FRUITION OF INSCRIPTIONS PRESERVED IN MUSEUMS

FEBRUARY 2013

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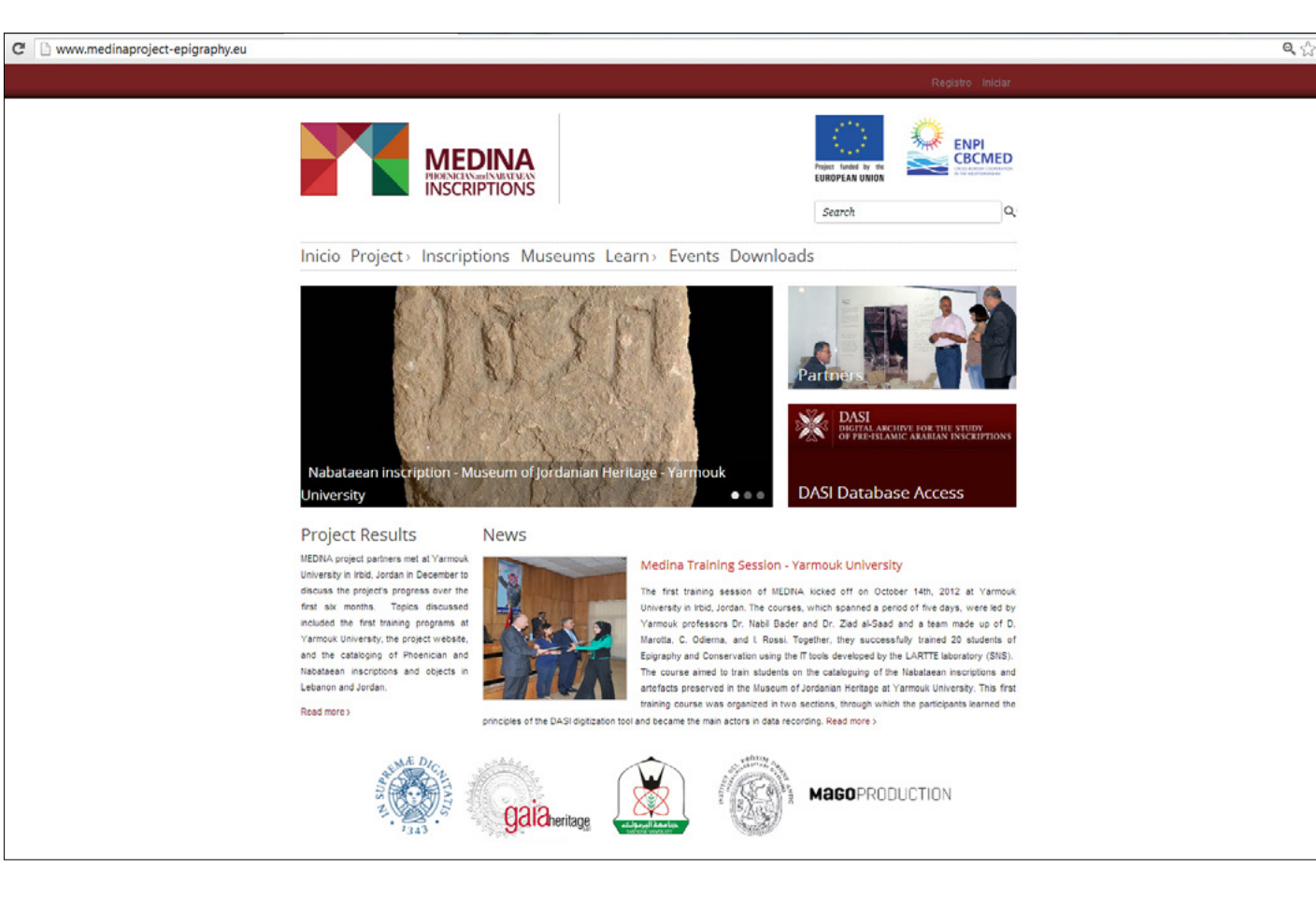


Photo: Phoenician marble statue of a child. Beirut, National Museum.

MEDINA website launch

GAIÀ-Heritage is pleased to announce that the MEDINA project website has been launched. The site features information and updates on the project activities as well as interactive tools for better understanding the history and languages of the Phoenician and Nabataean civilizations. More tools will be added as the project progresses.

To visit the website, go to www.medinaproject-epigraphy.eu



Training Courses at Yarmouk University

The first training programme of MEDINA kicked off on October 14th at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan. The courses lasted five days and were led by Yarmouk professors Dr. Nabil Bader and Dr. Ziad Al-Saad and a team from the University of Pisa made up of Daniele Marotta, Costanza Odierna, and Irene Rossi. Together, they successfully trained 20 Epigraphy and Conservation students using the information technology tools developed by LARTE, the research laboratory at the Scuola Normale in Pisa. The courses were organized into two sections, first introducing the students to the University of Pisa's online database, the Digital Archive for the Study of pre-Islamic Arabian Inscriptions (DASI), and then teaching them how to input data into the database. Students practiced using the software by cataloguing the Nabataean inscriptions and artefacts preserved in the Museum of Jordanian Heritage at Yarmouk University.

The courses at Yarmouk were the first in a series of training sessions that will be implemented by the MEDINA project. Throughout the project duration, activities will be held for students, researchers and museum personnel, involving as many Lebanese and Jordanians as possible. The next training sessions will take place in Lebanon and will train Lebanese students on how to use the database and the cataloguing software. All educational activities are designed to involve young generations in Jordan and Lebanon through seminars and didactic activities in universities, schools and museums. By supporting young scholars who are interested in ancient Nabataean and Phoenician studies, MEDINA hopes to encourage a common understanding of best practices and procedures for digitalization and dissemination of cultural heritage.

As part of the MEDINA project, students in Lebanon, Jordan, and Italy will ultimately use the software to insert Phoenician and Nabataean inscriptions and artefacts into the DASI database. This will create a unique and valuable resource available to everyone, particularly the scientific community of experts, students and epigraphists. The DASI database is a project of the Department of Civilizations and Forms of Knowledge at the University of Pisa and is led by Professor Alessandra Avanzini.

For more information on the training courses at Yarmouk, please see [Training Courses](#).



Training Courses at Yarmouk University.

First Project Meeting in Jordan

Partners of the MEDINA project met at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan on December 9th and 10th for the first Project Steering Committee Meeting. The team discussed the latest project results and plans for upcoming activities.

Partners in Lebanon and Jordan have begun cataloguing inscriptions and objects as part of the project's second Work Package. Yarmouk Professors Dr. Bader and Dr. Al-Saad have identified a selection of inscriptions that represent development of Nabataean language and its role as an origin of Arabic script. The selected objects will demonstrate innovation in Nabataean pottery and fusion of East and West influence in Nabataean art. Selections from Lebanon include inscriptions, pottery, and other artefacts relevant to both daily life and ceremonial culture of the Phoenician civilization.

The meeting at Yarmouk included a tour of the Museum of Jordanian Heritage, giving partners from Italy, Spain, and Lebanon a chance to view the University's impressive collection of Nabataean inscriptions and artefacts. The next Project Steering Committee Meeting will take place in Beirut, Lebanon on May 9th and 10th.



Partners at the First Project Meeting in Jordan.

Student Perspective.

Ala Shabib Al Oudat, Conservation Student at Yarmouk University



"In October, I participated in the MEDINA training course on digitalization of inscriptions and artefacts at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan. I was really happy to take part in the course and I found it interesting to learn more about this easy, computerized method for the documentation of archaeological inscriptions and objects into a database.

During the training course we were given a username to enter into the DASI database site. We received full instruction on every detail of this database, including how to start with the editor information details, how to make a catalogue for the epigraphs and their translations, and how to make a catalogue for objects. Although five days is not a long time for such an important subject, the professors presented the material to us in a great, easy way that enabled everyone to learn the techniques and procedures.

Thanks to the training, I now know how to document any object and any inscription and input the details into the database. Those who attended the course received certificates of completion signed by the President of Yarmouk University, the Deans of the Archaeology and Anthropology departments, and the MEDINA Project Coordinator.

At Yarmouk University I study Conservation with a specialty in Conservation of Archaeological Buildings. I have chosen to study Conservation because I know that Jordan is full of important archaeological sites, buildings, and objects. These treasures must be preserved through using scientific methods in order to save them for the future generations."



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