



# Newsletter REMEE

## Rediscovering Together the Memory of Water



### EDITORIAL

Welcome to this first newsletter for the REMEE Project. REMEE (Rediscovering Together the Memory of Water in the Mediterranean) started on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 and runs until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and is part funded by the European Union EuroMed Heritage Programme.

Four issues of the newsletter will be produced to keep you informed of activities undertaken as part of the REMEE Project.

Seven partners are taking part in REMEE. They are from all around the Mediterranean such as, Algeria, France (including

Corsica), Greece, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. Together, they are developing a diverse programme of activities to link the issues concerning the safeguard of water heritage with those of mobilising public opinion about the preservation of this resource.

The heartbeat of the project will be in the individual actions to safeguard and enhance heritage, a mobile exhibition and a documentary resource centre, all being undertaken over a period of 30 months.

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The REMEE Project in brief - Presentation of activities undertaken during Summer 2009 - Presentation of an Educational Programme "Young People: Players in Mediterranean Water Heritage" - Latest news - Presentation of partners.

## THE REMEE PROJECT IN BRIEF

The REMEE Project sets out a number of different activities:

### 4 local demonstration projects:

**In the region of Tipasa - Mount Chenoua (Algeria)**, the creation of a discovery trail and a guide on water heritage through time, the collection and display of traditions concerning water in the Chenoua area.

**In the Medina of Marrakesh (Morocco)**: an inventory of fountains and Turkish baths, the rehabilitation of fountains, the launch of an eco-label for Turkish baths and an exhibition.

**In a rural area of the Al Haouz Province (Morocco)**: the creation of an eco-museum about local heritage and a discovery trail.

**At Hammamet (Tunisia)**: the creation of an educational garden with local young people and a discovery trail through the orange groves and its water heritage and a programme of cultural activities.

**A Mediterranean Educational Programme** "Young People: Players in Water Heritage" is about rediscovering and safeguarding water heritage and aims to engage with more than 1000 young people in the different project partner countries.

### Awareness raising supports for the general public

- A mobile exhibition.
- A discovery guide.
- A DVD which will give an account of how the project was undertaken.
- Project website [www.remee.eu](http://www.remee.eu)

**The creation of a documentary resource centre** about the heritage and uses of water in the Mediterranean.



## ACTIVITIES DURING SUMMER 2009



**In Algeria: 1st-15th August - As part of a project to create a discovery trail on water heritage in the regio** the AREA-ED Association offered to work on the reinstatement of a Roman villa in the Cherchell Archaeological Park which is a protected site but is now totally overgrown.

Thanks to a volunteer workcamp, 16 young people (6 French and 10 Algerians) laboured away with members of the local population and the Curator of the Archaeological Park to clear vegetation and contributed to a spectacular improvement of the site and its safeguard.

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**In Morocco: 12th-26th July - 12 participants (6 Moroccans and 6 Europeans took part in a volunteer workcamp** to restore a fountain in the district of Bab Doukkala in the Medina of Marrakesh. This enabled the following to be carried out:

- An inventory of fountains in the Medina.
- A first programme of site restoration works.

The work targeted the cleaning up the fountain and its surrounding area together with the restoration of plastering and the reinstatement of the pool itself. Work on the restoration of stucco and plumbing is currently being monitored by appropriate experts.

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**In Tunisia: 6th-18th July - Part of the REMEE Project focuses on the creation of an eco-museum on orange groves** in Hammamet highlighting the architectural heritage and the know-how linked to arboriculture which constituted the principal economic activity in the area until the boom in tourism during the 1970's. **An international study workshop (or Campus) was organised by the Tunisian partner, AERE and brought together 14 volunteer students** or young professionals from Tunisia, France, Spain, Turkey and Switzerland with backgrounds in landscape architecture, agronomy, ethnology, cultural tourism, design, local development, etc.

The objective of this workshop was to formulate development and museum plan proposals for the future educational garden and an example of an orchard.

**In Tunisia: 10th-23rd August** - Using the proposals formulated by the Campus, the AERE Association, supported by APARE, **organised a youth workcamp to build an educational garden** in the grounds of the Hammamet Cultural Centre on the theme of water. Many local young people took part in the workcamp standing shoulder to shoulder with young French participants.

The workcamp led to the completion of the garden leaving only the didactic equipment to be installed (demonstration sites, information panels). In addition, the workcamp helped begin the work to develop the future orchard which will include a collection of citrus trees.

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## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

**The transnational educational programme, “Young People: Players in Mediterranean Water Heritage”, is one of the most important parts of the project.**

This programme commenced during the start of the new school year in 2009 with the participation of the seven project partners who each engaged with and mobilised young people at school or in associations in their own countries to discover water heritage in their own areas.

In Vaucluse (France), pupils started work on the subject of the Carpentras Canal. The work took place in different settings such as lessons in class during which animators handled questions about water heritage in their local areas linking this to resource management, landscape and irrigation systems. Then there were outdoor excursions to enable pupils : at Louis Giraud High school to further develop what they had learned in class.

**In June 2010, groups of young people will present the work they undertook in their own countries. As an example, this could be in the form of an exhibition.**

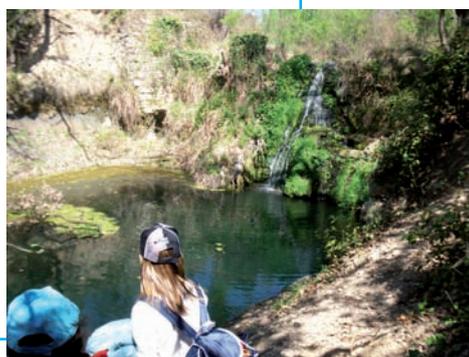


**The educational project concerning the Mediterranean Centre of Environment, Greece (MKP),** involves children aged 8 to 12 years old from the islands of Syros and Tinos in the Cyclades. Together with local partners, the POLIS Association on Syros and Friends Green Association on Tinos, the MKP wants to raise the awareness of children to critical island orientated problem of the increasing rarity or even the disappearance of local water resources.

The children will learn how poor management of water can lead to the disappearance of this vital resource using examples such as the observation of wells that have dried up, traditional water supply systems that have fallen into disuse and how sea water desalination plants work. Nevertheless, thanks to recent work to construct small dams in the beds of watercourses, fountains on the island are flowing once again. These examples accompanied by stories evoked by older members of the community and in particular, well diggers, will help the children see that solutions can be found for such problems.

At present, the activities are coordinated within the scope of local community life with scientific assistance from a geologist, Mr Giannis Psaltis and a hydro geologist, Mr Konstantinos Giannopoulos.

**For more information, please go to: [www.medcenv.org](http://www.medcenv.org)**



## LATEST NEWS

**The promotional leaflet for the REMEE Project is now available.** It presents the partners and the anticipated principles of the project. It is available on request from APARE and very soon as a download from the project website.

APARE presented the REMEE Project at the **19th Regional Environment Fair** which was organised by ARPE (Regional Agency for the Environment in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur). It was a great oppor-

tunity to distribute the promotional leaflet for the project to the general public, to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding water heritage and to publicise the activities undertaken during the Summer. During the Fair, Danièle Larcena, President of the Dry Stone Association in Vaucluse together with Mounir Bencharif, President of the AREA-ED Association, intervened to remind those present of the issues concerning preservation of water heritage in the Mediterranean.

**The website [www.remee.eu](http://www.remee.eu)** is under construction and will be on line from december 2009. It will offer full and detailed information on the project activities and their progress.

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Next newsletter REMEE on spring 2010.

## 7 partners from 6 Mediterranean countries

### Lead partner and coordinator



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APARE is an NGO based in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France which has worked for the safeguard of Mediterranean heritage for the last 30 years.

### In partnership with



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