Mediterranean Voices

Oral History and Cultural Practice in Mediterranean Cities
Mediterranean Voices

• A project of oral history and cultural practice in Mediterranean cities
• Raising awareness of the Mediterranean’s shared cultural heritage
• Providing a platform for silent or muted voices to speak
• Promoting sustainable development
• Strengthening regional stakeholder networks
Cities of the network
Methodology

- Multi-sited research in 13 cities simultaneously
- Local teams in each of the cities of the network conducted ethnographic fieldwork and oral history interviews
- Local ‘user groups’ identified in the course of fieldwork
THE PERSON

LIVING TOGETHER

WORK

clothing/the body (objects)

family membership (mobilities)

workplace (spaces)

pregnancy/birth naming ceremonies

parenthood

skills/knowledge training/apprenticeship

school (living together)

family outings (play; mobility)

processes

festivals
Coordination and management

- Local project management
- Central coordination and monitoring through consortium meetings, field site visits and innovative IT
Training

• Training and support in fieldwork techniques, mounting exhibitions and documentary film making
Med Voices database

- A ‘virtual Med’ rather than simply an archive
- Capturing, Authoring, Uploading & Categorisation all done ‘locally/remotely’
Search the database

- Database searchable:
  - Theme / sub-theme
  - Location
  - Media type
  - Language

- Results show summary, language & media type
Digital images
This recording taken by the local project team in Valletta, is of an Impromptu band playing traditional Maltese instruments such as zaqq, zummara and tambur in a bar during Carnival in Malta.
“Aunt Pembe”, a Balkan immigrant sings a school song she had learned in Tutrakan (Bulgaria) from where she had migrated.
Making the intangible tangible…

- The project has used many different ways of creating tangible products and outputs from the collection of intangible media

- Bringing in ‘new’ audiences
Making the intangible tangible…

- Exhibitions
  - Static or ‘roving’
  - Traditional panels
  - + video
  - + sounds

fragments from the past

cinema in the lives of London’s Turkish-speaking communities

multi-media exhibition including:
- documentary by Hiroyuki Horikoshi & Veli Özyeşil
- portraits of famous azeri women

exhibitions designed and produced for
- Mediterranean Voices by Veli Özyeşil
- Project implemented by London Metropolitan University

A multi-media exhibition capturing the practices and memories of cinema amongst the capital’s Turkish-speaking communities. Through interviews, photographs, video clips and film trailers, the exhibition reconstructs the role of the cinema as a cultural institution, both in forming memories of home, and aspirations to live in London.

Exhibition runs from 6-12 December 2004
Opening times 1-5 pm
Aldersgate Hall
33a St John Street
London EC1M 4D7
tel: 02077033322
email: info@aldeyepublichull.co.uk
www.aldeyepublichull.co.uk

www.heidereich.org
Creative formats for exhibitions…

• Memories evoked through montages, soundscapes and other objects
‘inclusive’ events
‘inclusive’ events...
‘inclusive’ events...
‘inclusive’ events...
‘inclusive’ events...
‘inclusive’ events...
‘inclusive’ events…
Creative formats for exhibitions…

- Interaction with the exhibits
- Interviewees and informants attend
Making the link between ‘tangible’ and ‘intangible’ heritage...

Casa de Colon,
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Buyuk Han, Nicosia
... and across the region

- ‘Medi-terra’ festival of Mediterranean music in Chania, Crete
- Regional ‘roving’ exhibition – *Shared Spaces in Times of Crisis*
Other tangible outputs

- CD of sounds and music
- Intangible heritage trails in Nicosia …
... and Alexandria
Further media outputs

Films, documentaries and radio programmes
• Catalogues
• Books
• Brochures
Belleklerdeki İstanbul
ARNAVUTKÖY FATİH GAZİ ÖSMANPAŞA MODA

İstanbul'da meydana gelen ve son halini 16. yüzyıla kadar olan ve Türkiye'ye bağlanan ve bu süreçte evvela Rusya ve Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'ndan alınan ve daha sonra Türk müzisyenlerinin çalıştığı bir sanat formu olan "çan". Bu sanat, İstanbul'un tarihi ve kültürel yapısı ile birlikte, bu uzun tarihin içindeki evrensel etkilerini de içermektedir. Bu sanat, İstanbul'un tarihi ve kültürel yapısı ile birlikte, bu uzun tarihin içindeki evrensel etkilerini de içermektedir.
Engaging with heritage and urban regeneration policy at local level
Promoting local awareness & participation

Involving local media …

… schools, pensioners groups etc.
Applications in sustainable tourism development

- A different approach to ‘heritage’
- Encouraging visitation away from tourist ‘honey pots’
- Extending length of stay in village and ‘secondary’ destinations
‘Turning Back to the Mediterranean’
Alexandria 2005

Over 100 participants, including researchers, film makers, teachers, community activists, arts and heritage curators.
Sustainability

- Creation of ‘Mediterranean Voices Association’ to continue developing work of consortium
- Expanding collaborative links to extend Med-Voices applications
- Continuing analysis and publication of material
- Developing source material for teaching and research in partnership institutions and beyond