



Scheda Tematica

Cultural Heritage

Last update: *September 2025*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Context

Italian cooperation in Libya plays a significant role in the protection and promotion of the country's cultural heritage through projects funded both by Italy and the European Union and implemented in collaboration with local and international institutions. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), together with technical partners such as the Central Institute for Restoration (ICR) and Roma Tre University, promotes initiatives aimed at preserving historically significant archaeological sites, such as Leptis Magna, and at strengthening local capacities in the fields of restoration and cultural heritage management. These efforts, supported by Italian and European funding, not only contribute to safeguarding Libya's cultural legacy but also foster economic and educational opportunities, promoting an integrated and sustainable approach to conservation. Furthermore, Italian cooperation coordinates with other international initiatives, creating synergies to maximize the impact of interventions and ensure the long-term management of Libya's cultural heritage.

Delegated Cooperation Programme "Protection of Cultural Heritage"

The project "*Protection of Cultural Heritage*" is funded by the European Union under the Special Measures for Libya 2023 and implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) with the technical assistance of the Central Institute for Restoration (ICR). With a budget of €2,2 millions, it foresees pilot activities in Leptis Magna with the aim of preserving Libya's cultural heritage through the preparation of a roadmap for the establishment of a restoration school and a capacity-building programme. The project will have a total duration of 36 months. The main partner is the Libyan Department of Antiquities (DoA).

Budget: EUR 2.2 M
Beginning of activities: 2025
Implementing partner: Central Institute for Restoration- ICR
General objective: Contributing to the sustainable conservation of Libyan cultural heritage

As the main authority responsible for antiquities, the Department of Antiquities (DoA) has a broad mandate ranging from the protection and maintenance of archaeological sites to the recovery of looted artifacts. Other relevant national actors include the

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR) and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training (MTVE), as they are the key institutions for education and training. The target group and beneficiaries of this initiative include staff from the Libyan Department of Antiquities (DoA) and university students specializing in academic disciplines related to cultural heritage. By participating in this initiative, DoA professionals will be able to strengthen their technical skills in contemporary conservation practices, thereby increasing their capacity to safeguard Libya's cultural assets. At the same time, university students will receive tailored training and hands-on experience in cultural heritage conservation, thus bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. This dual approach fosters a collaborative environment that encourages knowledge exchange, skills enhancement, and long-term commitment to heritage protection. The interaction between experienced professionals and young scholars aims to build a pool of qualified Libyan specialists, ensuring a sustainable future for conservation efforts in Libya and reinforcing the national framework for cultural heritage safeguarding.

"Red Castle and Museums of Tripolitania: Historical Archives, Museums, and Training"

Budget: EUR 0,45M

Contribution AICS: EUR 0,3M

Beginning of activities: 2010

Implementing partner: Università Roma III

General objective: Assisting the Libyan government in the valorisation of the country's archaeological and documentary heritage.

The *project "Red Castle and Museums of Tripolitania: historical archives, museums, and training"* is an initiative implemented by Roma Tre University in partnership with the Department of Archaeology of Libya (DoA). Launched in 2010, the project underwent a long suspension due to political instability in Libya before being officially reactivated in 2023. The overall objective is to enhance, preserve, and modernize the management of Libyan cultural heritage, with a specific focus on the Red Castle in Tripoli, its historical archives, and regional museums. The main

activities include: a specialized Italian language course for Libyan staff; cataloguing, digitizing, and enhancing the photographic archive and the collection of maps and drawings; inventorying and documenting archaeological artifacts in storage and architectural materials; an emergency conservation course; and the reinstallation and inauguration of the *Zanzur antiquarium*. To complete this work, two trilingual (Italian, Arabic, English) scientific publications will be produced and printed. The project therefore combines specialized training for local staff, application of innovative technologies for database creation, practical conservation and museum reinstallation interventions, and extensive dissemination of results. It aims to sustainably strengthen Libyan institutional capacities in managing their invaluable cultural heritage.