

## PROJECT REPORT

**“1<sup>st</sup> Corfu Arabian World’s Festival”, Corfu, 1–6 April 2011**

### Background

In 2011 the Greek NGO **CulturePolis**<sup>1</sup> organised the **“1<sup>st</sup> Corfu Arabian World’s Festival”, Corfu, 1 – 6 April 2011** which was implemented in the framework of the project **“Intercultural Dialogue Festival-Cultural Encounter between East and West”**, Grant Agreement NO 2009/0908”, co-funded up to 50% by the European Union “Culture 2009-2013 Programme”. The project partners organising their respective festivals are: from Italy, Calabria the Municipalities of Santa Severina (lead partner) and Crotona, from Spain the Municipality of Puerto Lumbreras, Spain, and from Greece the Corfu based Greek NGO CulturePolis.

The goal of the project was to promote the creativity to an intercultural and interreligious dialogue among local European populations and Muslims, by means of recovering their ancient cultural and historical links with the Arab world, promoting the artistic creation as literature, tales and painting production as well as encouraging in a open competition a new literary talent to describe the integration, the immigration and the encounter between Orient and Occident worlds.

A first evaluation report is presented in the attached Identity Card of the festival and for more details please visit: [corfufestivals.org](http://corfufestivals.org) (English, Greek, Arabic)

### Activity

#### What

An **Intercultural Dialogue Festival** with important scientific, cultural and artistic events and activities within six (6) days [1-6 April 2011] open to the public.

#### Why

Understand better the Arab world and the Greek people and its links with Europe through culture and intercultural dialogue.

#### When & Where

Fri 1 – Wed 6 April 2011

Corfu, Greece: Central Square, Municipal Theatre, Old Fortress

#### Who

**CulturePolis** - Europe of Cultures Forum: Adriatic-Ionian Chapter

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<sup>1</sup> Official name until today: Europe of Cultures Forum: Adriatic-Ionian Chapter

## Results

Results presented below per activity/sub-activity

### Number of participants/visitors/audience (if appropriate):

- Arab tent story telling sessions / readings : Approximately 1.500 young people mainly organised groups of pupils accompanied by their teachers and boy scouts with their chiefs but also hundreds of citizens.
- International Conference: Approximately 150 participants (incl. speakers)
- Exhibitions: Books, Handicrafts, Film/Videos/Music - several hundreds
- Gastronomy: 70 people (upon invitation only)

In addition several thousands (difficult to evaluate numbers) viewed live interviews of President on radio, TV, the web-streamed International Conference see promotions), press articles etc.

### **The Arab Tent "Jaima"**

A Maroccan Tent was installed for 6 days in the middle of the Corfu city Esplanade which served as the symbol and hosting venue of several activities.



### **1. A Transnational Conference**

Theme: ***The Journey: from Homer's Odysseus to Sinbad the Sailor***

#### Description:

Organise and implement a transnational conference concerning a particular issue: "the Journey", dealing with Homer's Odysseus and Sinbad the Sailor, with the tradition of the Arabian Nights. It will compare two conceptions of life that are the basis of the nature and the customs of two populations of sailors and travellers, considering also an ideal widening of the natural Mediterranean borders.

The conference lasted two days and took place in the Corfu Municipal Theatre. Experts of cultural and historical issues related to the objectives of the initiative were invited as speakers.

Among others were present the Mayor and president of Municipal Council of Corfu, the Ambassador of Tunisia, the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of Egypt, Professors from Arab and Greek universities, Experts from Islamic Art Museum/Museum Benaki, journalists from Al Jazeera, scientists and representatives from civil society organisations.

#### Results:

Organised on 3-4 April 2011, Corfu, Municipal Theatre

Attended by ~ 100 people with high level presentations and vivid debates

## **2. International Tales Competition /contest "Cultural encounter between East and West"**

### Description

Organise a literary competition for young people in Corfu and select the local winner for original tales.

Award ceremony for the 3 winners of the "International Tales Competition"

Winners from IT, ES will participate in ceremony.

### Results

#### ***International Contest for Young People (age groups 12-18 & 19-34)***

- Call for participation launched in 15 March (until 28 March 2011)
- Young people willing to participate in the **International Tales Competition** are invited to submit their essay (up to 2.500 words in Greek language) on the theme of the Festival "Intercultural Dialogue: encounters between East – West"
- The tales aim to encourage the mutual knowledge, that besides contributing to avoid conflicts, leads to the cultural enrichment of the individual and to the improvement of the civilisation of all societies.
- The local committee will select the 3 best essays based on their originality and creativity, and the first winner will be rewarded during the Festival in Corfu together with the winners from the contest in Italy and Spain.
- Competition launched in cooperation with Education Directorate for Ionian Islands who disseminated info to teachers. We had high quality – though low number of submissions due to late announcement (see admin problems)
- The winner selected by **5-member Evaluation Committee**, was a young Corfiot teacher Ms Anastasia Bourbou for her essay "In terminated times" dealing with the present immigration problem in Greece.

#### ***Arab world fairy tales***

### Description:

Offer professional sessions for fairy tales, where citizens can listening to Arabian, Italian, Greek and Spanish stories for kids and adults.

Under the Arab Tent and eventually other public places & schools.

### Results:

Took place tenths of fairy tales sessions delivered by professionals of the "Centre for Study and Dissemination of Myths and Stories"-e-mythos.gr who moved to Corfu 5 artists/professionals./

In addition interactive workshops were organised for children under the Arab Tent.

It is estimated that more than 1.500 people in great majority children accompanied by their teachers and parents attended these sessions and several hundreds of citizens paid visit during the different events

#### ***Arab world literature readings***

Organising 6 readings on Arab literature and philosophy

### Description:

Offer readings sessions of Arab literature and philosophy by young actors, cultural operators and experts of Arab world

### Results:

Four known specialists i.e. writers : Petra Koumoutsis, Antonis Dessylas and directors/actors: Petros Avgerinos, Dora Papanikolaou, read pieces of Arab literature and discussed the topics with audience.

More than 100 people attended

## **Arab and Corfiot gastronomy (additional activity)**

### Description:

Demonstrate Arab cuisine and its relationships local traditional cooking.

### Results:

An Arab gastronomy evening was organized for the officials and Conference participants to demonstrate Arab cuisine by Arab cooks. The Corfu Gastronomy Club was associated in this event and all members of Arab origine Corfiots were invited and their majority participated actively..

## **Exhibitions etc.**

### Description:

Books and other documents concerning literature, science, art and mathematics and their development in the Arab world and in Europe.

Bookshops in Corfu will promote in visible bookstalls books concerning Arab world, published by Arab publishing houses that can be purchased.

### Results:

#### **Literature corner**

An exhibition with more that 100 titles sponsored by several Publishers was organised in the Corfu Municipal theatre.

The exhibition was visited by several hundreds of people including students and their teachers.

Three selected bookshops in Corfu participated in this campaign and created visible bookstalls books concerning Arab world, published by Arab publishing houses that can be purchased.

## **Exhibition of original Arab contemporary art**

### Description:

Arab and European art and handicrafts; Exhibit Arab and local handicrafts (copies) generated from synergies with other EU initiatives will be sought

### Results:

#### **Art corner**

Arab and European art and handicrafts exhibition

A small exhibition was organised with Arab original handicrafts generated from synergies with other EU initiatives will be sought (Handicrafts from women from Arab countries-).

In cooperation with Greek "Museum of Islamic Art/Museum Benaki" and international Foundations; and EU funded projects e.g PRODECOM-CULTLINK material.

## **Arab video/film projections**

### Description:

Project videos/films with documentaries on Arab world

### Results:

Film Corner : Arab video/film projections:

Took place Continuous projections of Arab videos/films with documentaries on Arab world (see list)

In cooperation with Greek "Museum of Islamic Art/Museum Benaki" and international Foundations

## **Arab and Greek music:**

Complementary activity

Selection of Arab music and its influence to Greek music  
As above

## **The Arab Entertainment**

A Greco-Arab Party took place on Sunday 4/4 at Amaze Bar where all Festival participants were invited.

## **Dissemination and promotion activities**

### Description:

Publicity and promotion actions will be launched at local, national and international level to adequate media in 3 languages (EN, EL, AR) mainly via Internet.

### Results:

Publicity and promotion actions were launched at local, national and international level to adequate media in 34 languages (EN, EL, AR) and via Internet. These promotion activities took place not only in Greece and other EU participating or not countries but also partner Arab countries using all communication means.

A new website corfufestivals.org was implemented with content in Greek-English and Arabic to promote the Corfu event and the project in its totality. The existing website (in Italian only) has been updated with Corfu related content by Lead Partner. Several live interviews