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The European Neighbourhood Policy provides for a dialogue of cultures and civilisations between the European Union and its neighbours. Dialogue brings people from both sides of the Mediterranean together and it is within this context that the EU funds cultural activities aimed at improving exchange through the arts, culture and the preservation of the national Lebanese heritage. The EU, in its longstanding partnership with Lebanon, has always been a supporter of cultural development in the country. The EU funds cultural activities aimed at facilitating the development of local quality production, promoting access and participation for all, and strengthening dialogue between regions and cultures. This support also aims at alleviating poverty and social exclusion since the dynamic cultural industry can create jobs and contribute significantly to economic activity.

Programmes:



EU

AL SUNUNU: Music Education for Choirs of Palestinian Children

Budget	€ 30 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	February 2014 - on-going
Implementing partner	Association Rostropovich - Vishnevskaya
Beneficiaries	Refugees and marginalised population

Designed to introduce Palestinian children living in challenging social conditions in Lebanon to the world of music, this programme allows them to learn new skills and bond with one another, their teachers, and their scattered communities. In this regard, the project aims at preserving and promoting traditional music as an



expression of cultural heritage and identity for the Palestinian community. In the course of the action around 70 children and youth between 11 to 15 years old from UNRWA schools in Lebanon receive music education including lessons of singing, music theory and music history. Additionally, local music teachers are trained to become choirmasters and a concert is organised uniting choirs from different countries via satellite link.

Promoting Rapprochement Between Lebanese and Syrian Children in South Lebanon – Prales - Through Theatre

Budget	€ 23 814
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014 - on going
Implementing partner	ALPHA Association
Beneficiaries	Syrian Children

This programme is designed to promote rapprochement between Lebanese and Syrian children aged between 6-18 years old in South Lebanon and raising awareness on issues related to solidarity and human rights. The project focuses on play and ludic methods to promote harmony and mutual understanding amongst the two communities. Public performances are organised in the last month of the project with the participation of parents and community leaders.

Circus for Unity and Solidarity – CIRQUS II

Budget	€ 29 166
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2015
Implementing partner	Association Arc-en-Ciel
Beneficiaries	Youth

CIRQUS II promotes exchange and intercultural dialogue between young people from different communities and nationalities in Lebanon through circus arts. During introductory workshops in a multicultural environment, the young participants learn new cultural and artistic skills, how to perform them as well as how to help others access those skills. The trained participants will collaborate closely with local authorities and institutions in order to give the opportunity for disadvantaged youth to benefit from circus performances in five regions.

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Awareness Program on Modern Architectural and Urban Heritage in Lebanon

Budget	€ 29 800
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2015
Implementing partner	Arab Center for Architecture (ACA)
Beneficiaries	All citizen, students

The Arab Center for Architecture wishes to set up an annual program of activities of didactic as well as educational and cultural aspects. The program includes guided visits to sites (buildings, quarters ...) representative of the modern architectural and urban production, together with a brochure setting out the city routes and educational workshops for youth and students.

Developing Multimedia Activities in the Network of Public Libraries in Lebanon

Budget	€ 30 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2015-2016
Implementing partner	Arab Center for Architecture (ACA)
Beneficiaries	All citizen, students, scholars, schools, municipalities

ASSABIL (friends of public libraries) and COBIAC (Association of librarians and cultural actors) associations propose a training action for librarians as well as conducting media workshops for young people in public libraries all over Lebanon (Palestinian camps included), in order to strengthen their capacity and role as cultural, exchange and creative expression spaces at the service of users, particularly teenagers.



DEKLAMONS - Literary and Poetic Transversality in Lebanon

Budget	€ 30 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2015
Implementing partner	Université de Rennes II
Beneficiaries	All citizen, students

Strengthen intercultural dialogue between communities in Lebanon through culture: 1) - promoting social and cultural integration of marginalized populations through access to culture and meeting other communities; 2) promoting intercultural dialogue between France and Lebanon on the Lebanese and French Francophone literature; 3) creating sustainable cooperation networks between various actors (universities, civil society representatives, local authorities, citizens) from different nationalities around culture and 4) promoting the Lebanese literary culture abroad.

IBEROAMERICA in Tripoli Festival

Budget	€ 30 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2015
Implementing partner	SAFADI Foundation
Beneficiaries	All citizen, inhabitants form Tripoli

The residents will participate in activities that expose them to the rich and diverse history, traditions and heritage of Latin American countries and Spain. They can learn from the different activities that will take place during the festival and even identify characteristics that are similar to those of the Lebanese culture, thus promoting shared values.

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Food4med - Food for Mediterranean Exchange and Dialogue

Budget	€ 30 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2015
Implementing partner	Saint Joseph University of Beyrouth
Beneficiaries	All citizen

Food4Med's strategy aims at achieving results that will contribute to increasing target group and final beneficiaries' knowledge and awareness, improving their sociality and sociability, and raising their consciousness towards a multicultural and intercultural dialogue. In this sense, it will lay the foundations for building an active intercultural dialogue channel from the North side of the Mediterranean to the South side.

Organisation of Theatre Workshops for Children and Students

Budget	€ 20 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2015
Implementing partner	Al Madina
Beneficiaries	Theaters, creators, scholars...

Organisation of theatre workshops for children and students.



Organizing a Writing Workshop of Mediterranean Feature Film Screenplays (MEDITALENTS) and Professional Cinema Meetings

Budget	€ 20 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2015
Implementing partner	FONDATION LIBAN CINEMA
Beneficiaries	Moviemakers, creators, students...

Organising script writing workshops

Organising Two Editions of PhotoMed Liban Festival in 2015 and 2016

Budget	€ 20 000
Financing instrument	ENPI
Date of project	2014-2015
Implementing partner	PhotoMed Liban
Beneficiaries	Photographs, all citizen

Organising two editions of PhotoMed Liban Festival in 2015 and 2016

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France

[AFD] Cultural Heritage & Urban Development (CHUD Programme)

Budget	€ 21 000 000
Financing instrument	Sovereign Concessional Loan
Date of project	2014 - 2019
Implementing partner	CDR
Beneficiaries	Municipalities of Tyr and Tripoli

The Cultural Heritage and Urban Development (CHUD) Programme constitutes the main intervention of preservation and enhancement of the urban heritage of the cities of Tripoli, Byblos, Baalbek, Saida and Tyr. The contribution of AFD to the project – targeting Tyr and Tripoli – aims both at restoring the economic attractiveness of the historic centres, valorise their tourism and commercial assets, and improving social cohesion and the living conditions of the inhabitants. Consequently, it is based on three components:

1. Rehabilitation of old centres and improvement of urban public infrastructure,
2. Preservation of historic sites and streamlining their operations,
3. Assistance and training actions for local authorities in the management and leadership of old centres.

“Beit Beirut – the Yellow House”:

Budget	--
Financing instrument	Municipality of Beirut, City of Paris, the French Institute of Lebanon
Date of project	2006 – present
Implementing partner	Municipality of Beirut, Embassy of France in Lebanon, IFPO
Beneficiaries	Residents of Beirut

Being the symbol of the French-Lebanese decentralised cooperation, “Beit Beirut” is part of a broader goal to allow the Municipality of Beirut to initiate the establishment of a preservation of its architectural and urban heritage policy.



Initiated in 2006, the project aims at assisting the establishment of a City History Museum within the building of “Beit Beirut” and at raising awareness among the civil society and visitors of the heritage and urban issues by making Beit Beirut a place of public debate on the city concerns and problems. It will also be a place of cultural and artistic events open to all, which will house an auditorium, a library, exhibitions and educational workshops. The project brings together several partners: the Municipality of Beirut to finance the works, the City of Paris, the Embassy of France in Lebanon for its expertise and the French Institute for the Near East (IFPO) as scientific consultant. The first stage of the work was started in late 2012.

Website: www.beitbeirut.org

MONTAIGNE Cinema

Budget	€ 41 000
Financing instrument	French Institute of Lebanon, French Institute Paris, Lebanese patrons
Date of project	January 2015 to December 2015
Implementing partner	French Institute of Lebanon
Beneficiaries	Lebanese Public, young audiences, schools and universities, cinema professionals

The French Institute of Lebanon reopened its theatre on January 1st, 2015, at Montaigne, with a new fully digital projection equipment, similar to the commercial theatres (and digital diffusion, and sound system), offering 3 sessions per week:

Every Tuesday at 19:30: “Tuesday - Grands Classiques” - all the heritage of French cinema, with the great French directors and actors, as well as retrospectives and amazing film series.

Every Wednesday at 19h30: “Wednesday - Nouveaux Cinémas” - The new generation of French cinema and premieres of new French films before being released in the Lebanese cinema theatres.

Every Friday at 16h: “Friday - Ciné-goûters” - young audience film, intended for family audiences.

Throughout the year, the French Institute of Lebanon will allow a wide audience to discover or rediscover the best of French and European cinema. Montaigne Theater will also host special sessions: premieres, Franco-Lebanese production projects, retrospectives, festivals, meetings with directors and cinema professionals.

Montaigne Cinema will also allow the Lebanese public to have access to films not provided in the commercial

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network, and to participate in the discussion of ideas and the promotion of independent cinema in the region and Europe.

In addition to its language courses, the French Institute of Lebanon will offer movies to promote the learning of French language.

Digitization of Montaigne was possible through the support of CNC, UniFrance films of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development.

Support for Lebanese Cultural Operators

Budget	€ 80 000
Financing instrument	French Institute of Lebanon, French Local Communities, French Institute of Paris, Lebanese patrons
Date of project	January 2015 to December 2015
Implementing partner	Lebanese cultural operators
Beneficiaries	Cultural professionals, Lebanese public

The Embassy of France and the French Institute of Lebanon support the Lebanese cultural operators. A cultural cooperation programme is established each year according to the objectives specified by the partners and the relevance of projects. It aims at supporting the local stakeholders in the development of their activities and exchanges with French professionals.

In 2015, the supports are made firstly to Lebanese festivals spread over the entire territory (the festivals of Baalbeck, Beiteddine, and Byblos, in Beirut, the spring festival of Samir Kassir Foundation, Bi-Pod festival, the story festival at Monnot Theater, Al Bustan Festival), and secondly to innovative cultural structures such as the Beirut Art Centre, Achkal Alwan, the Metropolis Cinema, Collectif Kahraba, Collectif Zoukak...

This programme is conducted in close collaboration with local structures and French partners, and aims at repositioning the Francophonie within a dynamic environment opened to everyone.

This programme, set up annually, receives a consolidated funding of approximately € 80,000 for 2015.



Contemporary Music

Budget	€ 50 000
Financing instrument	French Institute of Lebanon, French Institute Paris, French local communities, Lebanese patrons
Date of project	January 2015 to December 2015
Implementing partner	Lebanese Cultural operators
Beneficiaries	Lebanese Public

In the field of contemporary music, the cooperation between France and Lebanon is strong and tends to grow, given the respective strengths of the two countries. Based on a relationship of trust between France and Lebanon, contemporary music industry in Lebanon is based on a network of experienced professionals and well-established events: Music Hall, Lebanon Jazz, Paris Mixe Beirut, and Beirut Jam Sessions. Beyond the support for these operators, the French Institute of Lebanon, through the organisation of “Cabaret du Monde” and “Music Day”, gives young emerging bands of the French scene the opportunity to be present in Lebanon, while maintaining a focus on the Lebanese scene.

In 2015, the French Institute of Lebanon will pay special attention to the emerging new music scene in Lebanon in order to give it the tools for structuring and the framework of a development at the local, regional and international levels. A major challenge today for musicians and Lebanese groups is to be present on the international market... Moreover, in the absence of a sufficiently functional professional organisation of public support and a legal framework protecting their own rights, these emerging groups should have the tools to promote their development.

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Support for Lebanese Cultural Operators

Budget	€ 80 000
Financing instrument	French Institute of Lebanon, French Local Communities, French Institute of Paris, Lebanese patrons
Date of project	January 2015 to December 2015
Implementing partner	Lebanese cultural operators
Beneficiaries	Cultural professionals, Lebanese public

The Embassy of France and the French Institute of Lebanon support the Lebanese cultural operators. A cultural cooperation programme is established each year according to the objectives specified by the partners and the relevance of projects. It aims at supporting the local stakeholders in the development of their activities and exchanges with French professionals.

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This programme is conducted in close collaboration with local structures and French partners, and aims at repositioning the Francophonie within a dynamic environment opened to everyone.

This programme, set up annually, receives a consolidated funding of approximately € 80,000 for 2015.



Support to the Lebanese Media

Budget	--
Financing instrument	MAEDI, French Institute of Lebanon, operators
Date of project	January 2015 to December 2015
Implementing partner	French Institute of Lebanon, operators
Beneficiaries	French and Arab media in Lebanon, Lebanese journalists

France provides various aids to Lebanese media, especially the French media:

- It supports Radio Liban (96.2 FM) through the French Institute and Radio France Internationale (RFI) by providing part of the radio programming for free and providing some equipment.
- A cooperation between Tele Liban, a Lebanese public channel, and France 24 since three years consisting of an exchange of programmes. Future TV created the programme Code 24 in partnership with France 24, which, for 52 minutes, analyses the international news in French.
- It organises each year, in partnership with the French Institute, Canal France International (CFI) and local partners, training sessions conducted by journalists and French experts, intended for Lebanese journalists (fact checking, ethics, web writing, video reports etc.).
- It organises, since two years, with the SKeyes Center for Freedom of the Press, in the framework of the French Priority Solidarity Fund “fight against corruption”, projects for Lebanese journalists enabling the tackling and development of articles and topics referring to problems of corruption.
- It aims at initiating the organisation of forums that are of importance to the press, new media and, more generally, the audiovisual field, such as 4M Machrek Beirut in November 2014, which brought together with CFI and SKeyes over 250 bloggers and journalists throughout the region to discuss emerging issues of the profession, or the first “forum of the press published in French in the Arab world”.
- Each year it organises nearly a dozen conferences and chat sessions with journalists and media professionals from the French Lebanese media sector or journalism schools.
- It helps with CFI, the digital transition, by providing expertise to the press: the Orient-Le-Jour, Commerce du Levant, and the daily AS Safir.

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French Book Fair in Beirut

Budget	€ 310 000
Financing instrument	French Institute of Lebanon/sponsorship/self-financing
Date of project	23 October to 1 November 2015
Implementing partner	Union of booksellers and book importers/Lebanese Ministry of Culture
Beneficiaries	Readers, students, book professionals

The French Book Fair in Beirut has a dual purpose: to support and develop the public and cultural debate in Lebanon on the one hand and, on the other hand, strengthen the different professions in the chain of the French-language book (booksellers, librarians, importers, publishers) in the country. The fair hosts every year between 55,000 (1992) and 70,000 (1994) visitors. As a cultural event with high visibility, it allows diversification of the books proposed in Lebanese libraries, and therefore helps to enrich the cultural offer, while developing cooperation with Arabic-language publishing through the development of translations. The Fair, with about 70 exhibitors, organises a hundred meetings and roundtables and hosts between 55,000 (2012) and 70,000 (2014) visitors. The project, organised by the French Institute of Lebanon in collaboration with the Union of importers of books and the Ministry of Culture, is conducted in partnership with booksellers and Lebanese publishers, Francophone embassies, universities and cultural and educational institutions, as well as the written and audiovisual French media.



Promotion of the Cultural Heritage and Urban Development in Lebanon (CHUD)

Budget	€ 10 228 000 as soft loan and € 570 000 as grant
Financing instrument	DGCS
Date of project	2007-2015
Implementing partner	Council for Development and Reconstruction
Beneficiaries	Municipalities of Baalbeck, Saida, Tripoli and Tyr

The CHUD programme (Cultural Heritage and Urban Development) is a broad intervention addressing Lebanon's historical cities (Tripoli, Byblos, Baalbek, Saida and Tyre) and aimed at pursuing the improvement of life



standards of their population. The programme's main components are the rehabilitation of city centres and the infrastructures' improvement; the conservation and management of archaeological sites and the strengthening of institutional capacities. The entire CHUD programme is promoted in Lebanon by the World Bank over six and a half years and totalling more than \$ 60 million. The Italian contribution amounts approximately to one fourth of the total budget.

Chamaa Castle Conservation Project

Budget	€ 700 000 as grant
Financing instrument	Development Cooperation Instruments (DCI)
Date of project	2008-2015
Implementing partner	Council for Development and Reconstruction
Beneficiaries	Chamaa Village

The initiative aims at rehabilitating the cultural heritage of the village of Chaama in order to spread conservation practices and contribute to the cultural, economic and touristic participatory development of the region. The restoration of the castle and the creation of related tourist patterns, the awareness about preservation models and the support to local handcraft production and food processing are the strategic axis of the project. Over 2013, the castle of Chamaa, after being heavily damaged during 2006 conflict, will be returned to local communities and will start playing a crucial role in their sustainable development.

Rehabilitation of Khan el-Ishli in Saida

Budget	€ 1 500 000 as grant
Financing instrument	Development Cooperation Instruments (DCI)
Date of project	2008-2015
Implementing partner	Council for Development and Reconstruction
Beneficiaries	Saida Community

The Khan el-Ishli (18th Century) constitutes an indisputable historic and artistic example of the caravanserai architectonic structure. This project will complement the implementation of the renovation plan designed in the framework of the CHUD programme and complete the interior rehabilitation. The proposed future use of the Khan el-Ishli, located in the historical centre of Saida, will contribute to a better fruition of urban spaces.

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Support to the Development of Religious Tourism in Lebanon

Budget	€ 414 000 as grant
Financing instrument	Development Cooperation Instruments (DCI)
Date of project	2012-2015
Implementing partner	Lebanese Government, Italian Cooperation
Beneficiaries	Religious communities and municipalities involved

The initiative aims at fostering the assessment and promotion of international religious tourism and at including Lebanon in the international map of cultural and religious tourism flows through the elaboration of religious tourism itineraries and the valorisation of significant religious sites of the Lebanese heritage. The ultimate goal is to generate development opportunities in decentralised areas. A Cultural Religious Tourism Unit, made available by the Office of the Prime Minister, ensure the management of the activities with the support of the Italian experts. Scheduled activities include the creation of a database of the potential tourist sites, the upgrade of their standards in compliance with the international tourism market ones and the elaboration of a marketing plan for the religious tourism in Lebanon with the definition of incentives to the private sector in order to foster investments in marginalised areas.

Improvement of the Cultural Offer of the National Museum of Beirut: The New Display of the Basement

Budget	€ 1 020 000 as grant
Financing instrument	Development Cooperation Instruments
Date of project	2013-2015
Implementing partner	Ministry of Culture - Directorate General of Antiquities
Beneficiaries	Lebanese Population

The Project intends to contribute to updating the museological strategy and at designing and executing a museographic display for the basement of the National Museum of Beirut in order to ensure a suitable presentation of the collection of funerary art that will be exhibited therein. The project will also provide the qualified expertise needed to restore, preserve and valorise the cultural objects and exhibits and will contribute to creating a plan for promotion and cultural activities in the National Museum of Beirut



Poland

Conservation and Restoration of Works of Lebanese Art

Budget

€ 400 000

Financing instrument

Polish government

Date of project

1996 – on-going

Implementing partner

The Lebanese General Directorate of Antiquities, the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw, the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, the Association pour la Restauration et l'Etude des Fresques Médiévales du Liban (AREFML)

Beneficiaries

All Lebanese society

To-date our work in Lebanon has encompassed 11 archaeological and conservation projects:

1. In Chhîm and Jiyeh – i.e. ancient Porphyreon (in southern Lebanon). Both projects were directed by prof. Tomasz Waliszewski of the University of Warsaw's Institute of Archaeology. Thanks to that work, Phoenician remains were discovered, as well as roman architecture, a byzantine basilica, byzantine mosaics, and an olive oil production centre.
2. In Kaftoun, Maad, Kfar Helda, Amioun, Mar Elias Btina (in northern Lebanon) and at the Cathedral of St George in Beirut. The projects were directed by prof. Krzysztof Chmielewski of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Polish scientists played a key role in the conservation and restoration of Lebanese medieval churches and the wall paintings in the abovementioned locations.
3. In the province of Iqlim el-Kharroub. The project was directed by Dr Mahmoud el-Tayeb of the University of Warsaw's Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology. The survey project yielded numerous results, such as the discovery of over thirty archaeological sites, including ancient villages and tombs.
4. In the valley of the River Awali north-east of ancient Sidon. The project was directed by Dr Krzysztof Jakubiak and Dr Michał Neska of the University of Warsaw's Institute of Archaeology. Field surveys were conducted in the valley of the River Awali, revealing numerous remains of rural settlements confirming that the area had been exploited intensively in Antiquity.
5. I Smar Jbeil. The project was directed by Dr Karol Juchniewicz of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archeology. The project conducted an examination of the remains of a crusader castle by using modern technology to produce documentation which allows for further study.