Scope of the seminar

This seminar is addressed to representatives of local administrations in the Mediterranean region and the Adriatic and is part of MedCities Annual Conference 2015. MedCities is willing to provide tools to its members and other policymakers and experts interested in the subject in order to achieve sustainable urban development and promote policies and practices that are adequate to the needs of citizens. Historic centres are crucial for the cities members of MedCities and they face serious challenges in terms of urban planning, economic development and heritage preservation, quality of life and social cohesion. This seminar focuses on generating debate and exchanging experiences and good practices from all shores of the Mediterranean basin and on enriching the work of MedCities in the definition of future multilateral projects.

The aim is to present innovative interventions in historic centres of the region regarding cross-cutting issues and discuss the challenges and risks faced by municipalities. The issues to be discussed are:

- Economic activities, with special emphasis on those linked to tourism,
- Cultural and heritage activities;
- Social cohesion and improvement of quality of life in these areas;
- Innovation in the development and management of historic centres: urban regeneration projects and the provision of public services, including new technologies (Smart Historic Cities).
Programme of the seminar

08.30 Arrival of participants and registration

09.00h Welcoming speech.

Mr. Andro Vlahušić, Mayor of Dubrovnik
Dr. Mohamed Idaomar, President of MedCities
Mr. Alfred Bosch Pascual, Vice-President of Barcelona Metropolitan Area
Mr. Joan Parpal I Marfà, General Secretary of MedCities

09.30h International Experts’ debate: Current challenges in the management of historic centres in the Mediterranean. Chair: Mr. Farouk Tebbal, International expert

[Mr. Brian Smith] Secretary General Heritage Europe
[Mr. Xavier Casanovas] President of RehabiMed
[Mr. Jean-Claude Tourret] International expert

11.00h Coffee break

11.30h Round table: Economic development, tourism and cultural heritage in historic centres. Chair: Mr. Farouk Tebbal, International expert

Mr. Pedro Marin Cots, Director of the Urban Environment Observatory of the Municipality of Malaga.
[The historic city of Malaga: innovation and simulation.]

Mr. Muzaffer Tunçağ, Council member of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality.
[Restauration activities in Izmir and their contribution to tourism.]

Mr. Amer Al-Tayeb Al-Rafei, Mayor of Tripoli.
[Interventions for the economic and touristic promotion in historic Tripoli (Lebanon).]

Mr. Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen.
[The Medina: an opportunity for the local economic development of Chefchaouen.]

13.00h Lunch break

14.30h Round table: Social cohesion and quality of life in historic centres. Chair: Mr. Farouk Tebbal, International expert
Mr. Zoubeir Moulhi, Director of the Safeguarding Association for the Medina of Tunis.

The Safeguarding Association for the Medina of Tunis: experiences of integrating social aspects in urban renovation projects.

Mrs. Carme Gual Via, Coordinator of International Relations of the Department of Ecology, Urban Planning and Mobility of Barcelona City Council.

Policies for social inclusion in the Old City of Barcelona

Mrs. Tijana Čađenović, Secretary for culture, sport and social services of Kotor.

Providing for socially vulnerable groups in the Municipality of Kotor.

16.00h Round table: Urban regeneration and innovation in historical city centres. Chair: Mr. Farouk Tebbal, International expert

Mrs. Senada Demirović Habibija, Senior Advisor for Urban Planning.

Mostar: Personification of Cultural Heritage Resilience.

Mr. Sami Aghnatios, Council member of Byblos-Jbeil.

The city of Byblos: urban regeneration and sustainability

Innovative interventions in historic cities:

Mr. Andro Vlahušić, Mayor of Dubrovnik. Dubrovnik Smart City Policy

Mr. Blazenko Boban, Mayor of Solin. Solin, Archaeological Park: Notions of tangible cultural heritage (Five senses tourism)

Dr. Mohamed Idaomar, Mayor of Tetouan.

Integrated interventions in the Medina of Tetouan: The Integrated Municipal Development Plan of the Medina

17.30h Closure of the seminar.