



ATHENE

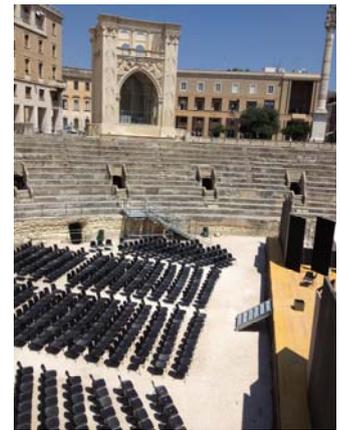
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ATHENE on the way!

The project ATHENE was launched during a kick-off meeting which took place at the beginning of May 2013.

Mediterranean Ancient Theatres Network (**ATHENE**) is a Culture Programme project which group together 4 European partners to work on cultural promotion. **The ATHENE project's aim is to contribute to intercultural dialogue and cultural cooperation through the revitalization and valorisation of Mediterranean Ancient Theatres (Greek and Roman legacy).** Actions to be developed in order to achieve this goal address three specific objectives:

- Cultural mobility. Definition and implementation of a joint international ATHENE Festival.
- Mobility of culture professionals and
- Intercultural dialogue.

The project started in May 2013. It will last 2 years to finish in April 2015.

What is a Culture Programme project?

The overall objective of the Culture Programme is **to enhance the cultural area shared by Europeans**, which is based on a common cultural heritage, through the development of cooperation activities among cultural operators from different countries, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship.

For more information, see the programme website: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/>



With the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union.

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Launch of ATHENE in Burgos on 8-9 May 2013

Representatives from the partners of ATHENE have come for 1,5 days to Burgos, in Spain, to **meet for the first time during the kick-off meeting of the project.**

They were **hosted by the Coordinator, the Provincial Government of Burgos, in Spain.**



In addition to the presentations of the partners and of the discussions on the organisation of the project, the partners made a study tour to visit the Ancient Theatre of Clunia in Peñalba de Castro, in the south of region.

The project has been started on May 2013 and the 24 month long period is going to finish on April 2015.



STUDY VISIT. Ancient Theatre of Clunia

The partners participated on a study visit in the Ancient Theatre of Clunia in Peñalba de Castro (Burgos).



This trip was closely linked to the aims of the project because the partners could see one of the most important Spanish ancient theatres.

The **Roman City of Clunia** (which was known in the olden days with the name of **COLONY CLUNIA SULPICIA**) is placed in the south-east of the province of Burgos, 90 Km from Burgos and 150 Km from Madrid. Clunia was during the Roman period the capital of the Judicial Monastery more important of all the Hispania Citerior.

For that reason, nowadays, we can enjoy of its marvelous mosaics and public spaces such as the forum, the Roman baths or the excellent theatre which is unique in all the North of Spain.

Festivals in the Ancient Theatre of Clunia. Burgos—Spain

Since 1999, the Provincial Government of Burgos has developed a cultural Programme throughout two important Festivals which have had a main goal: recover the ancient theatre of Clunia for scenic activities.

YOUTH FESTIVAL OF GRECO-ROMAN THEATRE

This Festival is assigned to *high-school students*. It is celebrated every year in the *month of May*. It consists in the playing of two theatre performances of two Greco-Latins authors. It lasts one day.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

It started in the year **2000**. The Festival was born with the aim of worth the Roman Theatre of the village of Clunia and to integrate it in the network of Mediterranean Greco-Roman theatres. Up today, 7 editions have been hold with approximately 23.000 spectators.



It should be pointed out that important performances have been represented (Oedipus King or the Descent of Sophocles).

In the music field: the symphonic orchestra of Castile and Leon or Greek singers as Savina Yannatou and Soyroula Baka. About the dance area, we can mention the DERVICHES from Cairo.



Pula's Small Roman Theatre

The **Small Roman Theatre** is situated on the eastern slopes of the old town of Pula, close to the city walls. That is a building of which nowadays are preserved just the reconstructed foundations, with semicircular audience (cavae), partly hewed into solid rock, the stage and its semicircular orchestra. The dimensions of the theatre are **75 x 50 meters**. The theatre dates from the **1st cent. A.D.**

In 2012 and 2013 archaeological researches were performed which thoroughly studied the lower part of the auditorium. 3D laser scanning of the Small Roman Theatre was done and digital graphic bases produced, as a precondition to make the outline, main and working project for the preservation and partial reconstruction of the theatre.



It is planned to **reconstruct the actual and add a new audience to get the original size of the theatre**. Within the project of reconstruction of the nearby building of the Archaeological Museum of Istria, the plan is to interpolate a large glass structure that should integrate a wide video-wall turned towards the Roman Theatre, making up an integral entity. For that planned intervention the consent to the outline project has been already obtained.

The result of the above-said interventions will be a duly arranged ancient theatre, **the only one in the territory of Croatia**, thus improving the tourist supply to the visitors of Pula and Istria.

Besides the arrangement of the monument itself, the venue will again be used for cultural events like concerts, ancient theatre, modern theatres, dance and similar performances. **The Small Roman Theatre should host about 2,000 visitors.**

All over the Mediterranean ancient theatres are used for similar purposes, and the reconstructed Pula theatre will become the centre of the cultural supply of the town.

Project Partners

4 partners are involved in ATHENE project. In every newsletter, we will introduce one of them.

In this first issue, the Provincial Government of Burgos in Spain (Coordinator) is presented.

Provincial Government of Burgos (PGB), Spain

The PGB is the **Coordinator** of ATHENE

Characteristic of the Province of Burgos

A territory with sparse population

About 350.000 inhabitants live in the Province of Burgos (census of 2012), and around 50% of them live in the main city, Burgos. The population density is 25 inhabitants per km² (total area: 14.300 km²).

It's the Spanish province with the highest number of municipalities (371) and more than 1.200 living areas. In these terms, the population density in the rural areas is very low: only 9 inhabitants per km². More than 300 municipalities have less than 500 inhabitants.

A good geographical situation



Diputación
de Burgos

The province of Burgos benefits from good connections with the most important cities of the country, by train and highway. On these grounds, the province constitutes a logistic platform in the industrial area.

Culture, Education and Tourism Department.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BURGOS

The Provincial Government of Burgos is carrying on its cultural activity through the **Culture Department**.

Mediterranean

Ancient

Theatres Network

ATHENE

Among its **activities** are included the following:

- Promoting cultural activities and more than 300 spectacles across all the province.
- Organizing provincial competitions of traditional dances.
- Organizing competitions of music and theatre.
- Promoting artworks and choral music in the ancient theatre of Clunia.

The Culture Department also gives financial support to the municipalities and cultural associations in the production of their artistic and cultural works.

Another activities:

- Promoting educational and touristic activities.
- Promoting of the natural, historic and cultural heritage among schoolchild.
- Promoting the touristic material of the province.



Provincial Government of Burgos

Contact person: Salvador Domingo

E-mail: sdomingo@diputaciondeburgos.es; jmsaiz@diputaciondeburgos.es

“LECCE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2019” CANDIDATE CITY

ATHENE's Italian partner, the **Municipality of Lecce**, is one of the candidate cities to EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2019.

The European Capitals of Culture initiative was set up to:

- highlight the richness and diversity of European cultures
- celebrate the cultural ties that link Europeans together
- bring people from different European countries into contact with each other's culture and promote mutual understanding
- foster a feeling of European citizenship.

In addition, studies have shown that the event is a valuable opportunity to:

- regenerate cities
- raise their international profile and enhance their image in the eyes of their own inhabitants
- give new vitality to their cultural life

LECCE, Heel of Europe, bridge across the Mediterranean Sea

Lecce is a historic city, commonly nicknamed "**The Florence of the South**" because of its rich Baroque architectural monuments.

This rich cultural melting pot, the result of exchanges, meetings and dialogue with the Balkans, the East and South of the world, cast **Lecce2019** towards the dream of a new Europe nurtured by relations, plurality, new horizons and prospects. From the 40th parallel, it is possible to reinvent the future and forge a new hub that may transform our Mediterranean sea in the beacon and heart of the Union, thus laying the foundations for a new development concept unveiling great innovation opportunities.

For more information:

<http://www.lecce2019.it/2019/capitale dellacultura.php>



From 2011, two cities – from two different EU countries – are European Capitals of Culture each year. **Italy and Bulgaria** are the chosen countries for the year 2019.

The 2019 European Capitals of Culture will be nominated in May 2015.

Italy: place of the next ATHENE meeting



The next meeting of ATHENE will take place during the month of February, 2014. The Municipality of Lecce will host this meeting in one of the most important cities of southern Italy.

The ATHENE partners will have the possibility to study in further details the wide cultural heritage of the region.

The schedule of the meeting is the following:

- First day : Steering Group meeting.
- Second day: Study Visit.

Visits and debates of this next meeting will be detailed in the next issue of ATHENE newsletter (May, 2014).

The province of Lecce is placed in the Italy's Apulia region. The territory has an area of 2,759 km² and a total population of 814.495 (2012).



Imprint—ATHENE - Mediterranean Ancient Theatres Network

For more information on ATHENE, contact:

Beatriz García, Project manager, Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos (SODEBUR).
(E-mail: bgarcia@sodebur.es).
Edificio Consulado del Mar. Paseo del Espolón,
14 09003 Burgos—SPAIN

ATHENE partners

1.— PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BURGOS (SPAIN)



Diputación
de Burgos

2.— SOCIETY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF BURGOS (SODEBUR) - SPAIN



3.— MUNICIPALITY OF LECCE (ITALY)



4.— ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF ISTRIA (CROATIA)