

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL
NETWORK OF ANCIENT THEATRES**

Today June 1st 2018, the representatives of Diazoma Association, the Scientific Journal La Rivista di Engramma, the Università Iuav di Venezia and the University of Seville met in the office of Diazoma Association, 30 Bouboulinas St., Athens 106 82, Greece. After exchanging their experience on the study and promotion of ancient theatres, they decided that their organizations would collaborate in this field as follows:

I. ACTIVITY OF THE COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

A. "DIAZOMA" Non Profit Association, Athens, represented by Vassilis Lambrinouidakis, Prof. emer. of Archaeology at the University of Athens and General Secretary of the "DIAZOMA" Association, Danae Antonakou, architect – city planner and responsible for the international network of the association and Konstantinos Boletis, architect - engineer and member of the Board of Directors of the association was founded in 2008 with the aim to contribute to the promotion of ancient Greek and Roman monuments designed for theatrical, musical and other performances and participation : theatres, odeons, stadiums, amphitheatres, telesteria, bouleuteria and palaestrae.

In recent years, the Association has made it its fundamental objective to incorporate monuments into everyday life and connect them with sustainable development. However, the initial and permanent goal of the Association remains the documentation of the ancient theatres and the dissemination of this common heritage to the general public, through the following actions:

1. Develop an ancient theatre Panorama (an index of ancient sites designed for theatrical, musical and other performances, classified according to their character and state of conservation).
2. Create specialized bulletins for ancient theatres stored online in an e-repository.
3. Produce publications on ancient theatres.
4. Produce documentaries about ancient theatres and prominent scientists in the fields of archaeology and architecture.

5. Create new entries on WIKIPEDIA about ancient theatres.

B. "La Rivista di Engramma" Scientific Journal (<http://www.engramma.it>), represented by Prof. Monica Centanni, director of the journal and professor of Greek Literature at the Università Iuav di Venezia and the Università degli Studi di Catania focuses its research on the classical tradition in Western culture: the persistence, renewal and new formal interpretations, themes and topics in art, architecture and ancient literature, from antiquity to the Middle Ages, to the Renaissance, and to modern times. Since 2010, "Engramma" has started publishing a report about Greek and Roman theatres, amphitheatres, and odeia (an index of the monuments in the Mediterranean basin and provinces of the Roman Empire), documented or known through direct and indirect sources. All the data collected from the corroborated and updated bibliography are organized in a summary table, alphabetically subdivided according to the location of the monument in the modern state in which it is situated. In turn, each site is alphabetically indexed based on the current local name, always accompanied by the Latin name. On sites where two or more buildings appear, chronological data are entered. Furthermore, for each monument the type of building is indicated: Greek theatre, Roman theatre, Greek odeion, Roman odeon. A question mark indicates the impossibility of defining the typological nature, because of the scarce data available in the sources or the critical bibliography. The data form collects known historical evidence on the building and the time span during which any restorations or additions occurred is highlighted. A graphic symbol marks the conservation status of the building (good, mediocre, invisible, only identified by indirect sources). The results of this survey constitute an in fieri work, subject to continuous corrections and updates.

C. The Università Iuav di Venezia, represented by Prof. Mauro Marzo, researcher at the university and coordinator of the international network of the School of Architecture "Designing Heritage Tourism Landscapes", (www.iuav.it/dhtml), collaborates with the Journal "La Rivista di Engramma".

D. The University of Seville, represented by Prof. Antonio Tejedor Cabrera, director of the University Institute of Architecture and Construction Sciences (IUACC), coordinator of the Doctoral Program in Architecture at the International School of Doctorate of the University Seville (EIDUS), founder and director of the International Forum of Roman Theatres, and Prof. Mercedes Linares Gómez del Pulgar, researcher at IUACC, director of the Architectural Graphical Expression Department of ETSA and coordinator of the International Forum of Roman Theatres. The International Forum of Roman Theatres is an open space for the study and discussion about ancient theatres from all possible viewpoints: historians who investigate; archaeologists who excavate and interpret; architects who restore and maintain; artists who write, design, produce and direct; technicians who put spaces into operation and especially the users to whom all this work is addressed; the public, whether they are tourists, spectators or citizens. The content is related to the history of classical Theatre, the authors, the archaeological and architectural space, the associated technologies and other people involved. The International Forum takes place in coordination with the Classical Theatre program in the Roman Theatres of Andalusia (Italica, Malacca and Baelo Claudia) that started in 2013 organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Andalusia.

II. OBJECTIVES

Sharing their own experience in the above fields (documentation, registration and enhancement of ancient theatres), the representatives of the organisations decided to collaborate in order to:

- a) Coordinate the existing Panoramas (indexes of ancient monuments), classify the monuments according to their character and state of conservation and enrich the records with all available scientific evidence.
- b) Elaborate specialized bulletins to document each monument of the index to be stored in an e-repository.
- c) Produce and coordinate publications.
- d) Produce documentaries about ancient theatres and prominent scientists in the field of archaeology and architecture.

- e) Create new entries on WIKIPEDIA about ancient theatres and other sites designed for theatrical, musical and other performances and participation.

The signing parties believe that the comprehensive registration and documentation of the ancient theatres of the Mediterranean basin will be the first step of a global approach aiming to protect and promote the cultural heritage of the ancient Greek and Roman world and to enhance international synergies between the creative forces of the respective countries and regions. Finally, the parties agree to contribute to the promotion and implementation of a sustainable development program, focusing on ancient theatres. The above program is intended to be an incentive for the upgrade of cultural life in local communities and reinforcement of their social cohesion.

III. ROAD MAP

As a first "road map" the representatives decided that their organizations will work on the following issues:

1. Documentation of each ancient theatre by scholars/scientists - who have worked on the monuments. This documentation will be conducted with well-established scientific criteria.
2. Completion of registration/documentation based on the standards and work already done by the above-mentioned partners.
3. Entry of digital maps (spatial data analysis systems) and digital documentation (pictorial, graphic and videos) to complement the registration data of each monument.
4. Pilot registration and documentation of three (3) ancient theatres from each country (Greece, Italy and Spain). The selected monuments should have diversified characteristics (different state of conservation, preservation, various locations, monuments that host artistic events or festivals, locations far from urban centres, etc.). Konstantinos Boletis will coordinate the selection of the monuments.
5. Coordinator for the implementation of this memorandum will be the Association DIAZOMA, represented by V. Lambrinouidakis and D. Antonakou, as his deputy.

The present Memorandum was signed by each party.



The representatives of the Network Partners

Pr. Vassilis Lambrinouidakis,
Professor Emer. of Archaeology,
University of Athens

Dr. Konstantinos Boletis,
Architect – engineer

Danae Antonakou,
Architect – city planner

Pr. Monica Centanni,
Director of “La Rivista di Engramma”
Scientific Journal

Pr. Mauro Marzo,
Researcher, Iuav Università di Venezia

Pr. Antonio Tejedor Cabrera,
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Pr. Mercedes Linares Gomez del Pulgar,
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