



HIGH TRAINING FOR THE PROTECTION AND VALORISATION OF THE TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF IRAQ

The City of Florence is the leader of this initiative, endorsed by the Foreign Affair Ministry, which consists of several activities among Baghdad and Erbil, in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The National Library of Florence, the Iraqi National Library and Archives (INLA) of Baghdad, the University of Florence and the High Commission of Erbil Citadel Revitalization of Erbil's governorate are partners in this project.

The collaboration between Italian and Iraqi people is the central thread of the project which aims to protect the cultural heritage of Iraq. It is divided into two main courses of action:

- Collaboration with the Iraqi National Library and Archives of Baghdad in order to protect the national literary heritage through the high level capacity building for librarians and archivists of BANB. The main focus consists of the digitalization of the books;
- Collaboration with the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization in order to enhance the Citadel staff's competence in managing and promoting an UNESCO website through training courses and study visits that will be held in Iraq and Italy.

Regarding the first course of action, the project aims to enhance the earlier initiatives of cooperation between public operators, Italian non governmental operators and the Iraqi National Library and Archives of Baghdad, which have been developed during the last nine years.

Some solidarity projects and projects about the enhancement of Iraqi librarians and archivists' ability were developed in collaboration with the National Library of Florence and local authorities and Italian experts. During these years, these kinds of support activities contributed to the rebirth of the Iraqi National Library. In addition to this, a solid and efficient partnership was built. In this partnership, the National Library of Florence is an important part because of its scientific and technological knowledge and its willingness to carry out projects and to enhance culture as a crucial element of the cooperation.

The project, in particular, provides:

- Training for 50 Iraqi librarians and archivists about cutting-edge technologies applied to the archival science and to the cataloguing of the Digital Library,
- Creation of a National Audio-Visual Archive into the National Library of Baghdad and the training for the technical staff. They will be informed about the conservation of digital data and restoration of audio-visual goods,

- Realization of a seminar about the promotion of literary and cultural heritage of Iraqi minority groups,
- Equipment of a mediateque at the National Library of Baghdad accessible for adults and children,
- Equipment of the first section of Italian culture at the National Library of Baghdad

The second course of action is implemented thanks to the collaboration between the City of Florence, which has its own UNESCO Office, and the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization. The aim is to enhance the skills of the Citadel's staff. The project needs high training to be accomplished and the high training will be carried out by the University of Florence and the City of Florence and addressed to the High Commission of Erbil Citadel Revitalization of Erbil's Governorate's staff about the management and touristic promotion of an archeological website, inserted in the tentative list for the candidacy for the World Heritage List of UNESCO.