

Report of Training Activity from 02.02.2020 till 06.02.2020 to Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan

First of all, I want to mention that there is a bilateral agreement that was originally signed on of Mrs Chouveraki proposal between the Department of Antiquities and Works of Art of University of West Attica and the Department of Conservation and Management of Cultural Resources of Yarmouk University. Then this cooperation continued with the broader cooperation of the two Universities. The field of collaboration is: Ancient Technology-Conservation Science. Due to this cooperation developed between the two departments, there were exchanges of both students and staff. Under this framework of the Erasmus+ICM program I traveled to Jordan at Yarmouk University with Dr. Androniki Kavoura from Department of Business Administration (University of West Attica).

During my visit to Yarmouk University between 02.02.2020 – 06.02.2020, I attended meetings and discussed possible collaboration opportunities.

The first day I met **Mr. Mwaffaq (Mof) Otoom**, PhD Associate Professor of Computer Engineering, Director, International Relations and Projects Directorate and the staff of the Office of International Relations, **Mrs. Arryaf Qassem Al-Rousan**, Head of International Relations, and **Mr. Ahmad Barakat Al-Shannaq** from the Office of International Relations ([photo 1](#)) and I presented the activities of my Department.

The second day I had the opportunity to meet **Dr. (Physics) Dr. (Anthropology) Wassef Sekhaneh** (Associate Professor) from Department of Conservation and Management of Cultural Resources with whom we have the same scientific interests, and I have already worked with his student, **Mrs. Rawan Al Rabadi** who has visited the Department of Antiquities and Works of Art of University of West Attica under the framework of Erasmus+ICM, doing experimental part of her master's thesis ([photo 2](#)). As he already knew my scientific work, we talked about upcoming collaborations, research programs and publications. We visited the Museum of Jordanian Heritage in the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology which represents a vital and important unit of Yarmouk University. The museum houses two permanent exhibitions, where the first represents the rural heritage of Jordan. The second exhibition displays selected archaeological objects in a chronological order from the Paleolithic to the Ottoman period ([photos 3,4](#)). This visit gave rise to further

discussion in the field of cultural heritage as well as ideas for conservation and prevention of museum objects after physico-chemical analysis and studies.

Dr. Wassef Sekhaneh and the International Relations Officers insisted that we take a tour of the wider area and view the cultural heritage research field, so the third day of our mobility in Jordan we went to Jerash (Ancient Jerash). The ruined city of Jerash is Jordan's largest and most interesting Roman site. There, we met the collaborator of Dr. Wassef, **Mr Belal al Borini** who did a detailed tour as he gave us detailed historical information about the monuments as well. This tour was very important to me as I have many similar cases of monumental damage to deal with in the lab. Mr Borini showed us the "unique" lead sarcophagus that dates back to the Byzantine era. It has funerary art carved on its outer walls, which depict Christian symbols and Greek mythological subjects, such as the myths of Prometheus and Hades. **Dr Abdulrahman Serouji**, a professor from Yarmouk University supervise the restoration process and Dr. Waseff collaborate on the experimental part of this study. The sarcophagus is thought to have held the body of a priest or a high-profile person during the 4th century, according to a study from Mr. Borini, who wrote his thesis on the finding ([photo 5](#)).

The fourth day followed with a field trip to historical site to Madaba City of Mosaics in Jordan. I met **Mr. Maher Karadshesh**, who knows my colleague Mrs. Chlouveraki and our Greek students. He guided us to the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Madaba which was built in the Byzantine-era style, and is best known for the spectacular mosaic which is preserved in the floor of the church. The mosaic dates back to the 6th century, and it consists of around two million differently colored individual pieces of stone ([photo 6](#)). I had the opportunity to see the place where my colleague and Greek students works as part of the mosaic conservation program at the World Heritage Site of the Archaeological Site, Um Al Rasas. Through the program, students of the Department of Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art of University of West Attica are offered the opportunity to complete an internship or choose a related subject for a thesis. Student participation is also supported by the Erasmus program through the collaboration of the Department of Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art of University of West Attica with the Department of Management and Management of Cultural Heritage of Yarmouk University.

Expected outcomes and impact from my mobility in Jordan under the framework of the Erasmus+ICM program, were positive. Transfer of knowledge, understanding of the cultural context of each other and the impact it has in the approaches and strategies in the field of cultural heritage, and working towards the development of common programs where students and academics of both departments can collaborate in demonstrating best practices in the area of cultural heritage preservation is in development for new collaborations.

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Photo 1. Left: just as posted on social media by the **International Relations - Yarmouk University** on 13.02.2020 with following comment “*The Department of International Relations and Projects at Yarmouk University received a delegation from West Attica University/Greece, which included Dr. Androniki Kavoura and Ms. Eleni Tziamourani within the Erasmus+ program, the two sides discussed the international cooperation that brings together both institutions, noting that West Attica University receives students from Yarmouk University for the second semester of study in the Eu-funded Erasmus+ program*” <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalYU/>. Right: Mr. Ahmad Barakat Al-Shannaq, Dr. Wassef Sekhaneh, Dr. Androniki Kavoura, Dr. Mwaffaq (Mof) Otoom, Mrs. Eleni Tziamourani and Mrs. Arryaf Qassem Al-Rousan. Down: Dr. Wassef Sekhaneh, Mrs. Eleni Tziamourani, Mrs. Arryaf Qassem Al-Rousan and Mr. Ahmad Barakat Al-Shannaq.



Photo 2. Presentation of Mrs. Rawan Al Rabadi thesis, entitled “*Conservation on a Epitaphios Threnos Textile Icon from the Baptism Museum in Jordan*”. Part of her experiments took place in the Department of Conservation of Antiquities & Works of Art, University of West Attica.



Photo 3. Dr. Wassef Al Sekhaneh, Mrs. Eleni Tziamourani



Photo 4. Museum of Jordanian Heritage at Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan



Photo 5. Mr Belal al Borini, Mrs. Eleni Tziamourani and Mrs. Androniki Kavoura in the ruined city of Jerash, Jordan.



Photo 6. Saint George byzantine church in Madaba, Jordan holds the famous Madaba Map of the Middle East; a floor mosaic dating back to the 6th century AD depicting an area from Lebanon to the Nile Delta, and from the Mediterranean Sea to the Eastern Desert. It is the oldest known geographic floor mosaic in art history. Mrs. Eleni Tziamourani and Mr. Maher Karadshesh in a excavation area and mosaic conservation in Madaba, Jordan.