



## **MED COOPERATION - A ROAD TO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

### **Territorial promotion as a tool for dialogue and coexistence between Israel and Palestine.**

Med Cooperation is a decentralized cooperation program between Tuscan, Israeli and Palestinian cities which has the aim to promote dialogue, peace and development through the creation of a "Cultural Road" linking the six cities in the Middle East: three Israeli cities (Akko, Haifa, Taybe) and three Palestinian cities (Gericco, Nablus, Tulkarem). Thanks to the support of Tuscan partners (Region of Tuscany, Municipalities and Tuscan NGO), these cities can promote a different kind of tourism: a trip to the "Road of the Cultural Heritage of the North Holy Land". The program has been realized thanks to the funding from the Region of Tuscany, the European Commission and the Foundation Monte dei Paschi di Siena.

Med Cooperation was created in 1999 because of the willingness of several Tuscan authorities involved in solidarity and collaboration initiatives in the Middle East. The purpose is to make more effective the dialogue between local authorities and to support the peace process between Israel and Palestine through the decentralized cooperation at the local level.

The City of Florence joined the Program in 2001 and reconfirmed its support to the initiatives in 2010, operating particularly in the cultural heritage field. In details, the City of Florence wants to realize the management plans for the Old Palace of Tulkarem Municipality and the Mamelucca Tower in Taybe, which are two cultural-historical locations. During 2013, an expert has carried out a mission in Tulkarem and Taybe in order to support the realization of management plans. These plans concern tourism, accommodation and handcraft in Tulkarem, while they are focused on culture and museums in Taybe. <http://www.medcooperation.org/it/>

Building on the experience of Med Cooperation two Israeli cities (Acco, Haifa) and two Palestinian cities: a trip to Israel and Palestine, on the trail of history and rebirth. It is realized thanks to Tuscan partners. The trip is organized by Robintour and Argonauta Viaggi. Information at: <http://www.robintur.it/promozioni/106-verde/969-il-viaggio-possibile-israele-e-Palestina>