

## **STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT OF THE HISTORICAL CENTRE OF CITY OF LEON - NICARAGUA**

Project co-financed by the European Union

The Municipality of Pontedera is the project leader. The project relies on a partnership including the Municipality of Leon, the City of Florence, the Medina Association and the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua - Leon UNAN, with the participation of the *Instituto Nacional de Cultura (Dirección de Patrimonio)*.

The city of Leon is currently undergoing a crucial phase of change and transformation: the recent inclusion (2011) of the Cathedral and its surrounding area (23 blocks) in the list of the World Heritage Sites of UNESCO has meant a rapid increase of the tourist flow, resulting in a structural change of the socio-economic system of the city center, which is developing social and spatial imbalances which in future might lead to conflicts between citizens and institutions. The discipline of planning has specific responsibilities on the worsening of social and spatial inequalities and conflicts, and the project on the city must be one of the starting points of any public policy.

This cooperation project aims to strengthen the technical capacity and management of the Municipality of Leon for the outline of the Sectoral Plan of the Area of Cultural Heritage of the city, in agreement with the institutions and civil society through training of the technical and political staff. This action seeks to improve the management system of the historical centre through the establishment of a Participatory Management Plan.

Specific interventions on participatory GIS, planning and city sustainable management of urban historical centers, participatory methodologies for mitigating conflicts, equitable techniques of application of cadastral values, collection and catalog of existing sectoral studies, existing regulatory tools and best practices relating to the management of the historic centers of high asset value will be implemented. An analysis of the historical heritage of the city will be started to perform, through participative workshops, a technical integration of the catalog of tangible and intangible assets.

The City of Florence will support the project by providing its expertise in the management of a historic center declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Among the objectives of the project is indeed to train staff of the Municipality of Leon, Nicaragua, on the sustainable urban planning and management with particular reference to the historical centers recognized UNESCO World Heritage Site.