



REHABILITATION AND PROTECTION OF HOSH AL SYRIAN IN THE HISTORICAL CENTER OF BETHLEHEM TO RE-USE IT AS ACCOMMODATION AND TOURISM FACILITIES

The Palestinian cultural heritage, symbol of the people's identity, is often forgotten. Cause and effect of this phenomenon is the urban blight and the decline of architectural heritage.

The project is realized in collaboration with the Municipality of Bethlehem within the Program of Support for Palestinian Municipalities realized by the Italian Foreign Affairs Minister (*Ali della Colomba*) and in partnership with the City of Montevarchi, Fiesole, San Miniato and Civita Castellana. The Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation, CCHP, is the technical partner in the City of Bethlehem.

The project involves the rehabilitation and restoration of the Hosh Al Syrian, which is a historical building located in the center of Bethlehem, in order to use it as a Guesthouse ensuring the building's conservation. The project respects the conservation criteria and the valorization of the historical and architectural characteristics of the building in turning the building into an accommodation facility, equipped with 27 rooms.

The management of the facility, which is a public property, will remain a responsibility of the Municipality of Bethlehem; the staff of the City and the local entrepreneurs will benefit from training courses about conservation of cultural heritage held by the CCHP of Bethlehem.

Thus, both entrepreneurs and technicians involved in the rehabilitation of the building and the Municipality's officials will be able to acquire specific technical and cultural competences linked to the restoration and management of a site with particular emphasis on architectural history

Once completed, the facility will see the old town of Bethlehem enriched the range of accommodation in the tourist sector with particular focus on the development of local cultural heritage.