EDUU
Education and Cultural Heritage Enhancement for Social Cohesion in Iraq


CONTACTS
EDUU
Project coordinator
Nicolò Marchetti:
icolo.marchetti@unibo.it

Project coordination team
disci.eduu@unibo.it

Alma Mater Studiorum
Università di Bologna
www.eduu.unibo.it

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Description and objectives
EDUU – eduu is the verb “to know” in the Akkadian language that was spoken by the inhabitants of ancient Mesopotamia from the 3rd through the 1st millennia BC – seeks to create an EU-Iraq partnership in the area of education and cultural heritage enhancement, connecting Universities, secondary schools, and museums. This partnership will work together with the aim of enhancing the pluralism of Iraqi civil society, raising awareness on the diverse and multicultural past of Iraq.

EDUU's consortium involves two European partners, UNIBO, the University of Turin (UNITO), Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino (CRAST) and three Iraqi universities (University of Baghdad, University of Qadisiyah, University of Kufa). Associate partners are the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) of Iraq and the Italian UNESCO Youth Committee.

EDUU has five main goals:
1. To increase the knowledge of pre-Islamic societies in Iraq through archaeological and environmental research in the governorates of Al-Qadisiyah, Najaf and Wasit, and raise awareness on Iraqi cultural heritage.
2. To better protect cultural heritage and to promote its use as a tool for dialogue between different sectors of society by improving the skills of SBAH personnel and community leaders.
3. To promote interest in the common cultural heritage and identity of Iraqi society among younger generations through courses in secondary schools and rural communities.
4. To improve the local museum assets and engage civil society in cultural heritage initiatives promoted by museums.
5. To promote and disseminate in Iraq and also internationally the value of cultural heritage as a tool for community building.

Outcomes
1. New archaeological sites mapped and studied thanks to extensive archaeological and anthropological fieldwork and surveys;
2. New publications by Iraqi students and researchers on Iraqi cultural heritage and social cohesion in prestigious national and international scientific journals;
3. Organization of conferences on the Enhancement of the Archaeological Heritage in Iraq. The proceedings published and made available as open-access contents;
4. SBAH operators and local community leaders trained in best practices on heritage management by EU experts, in the field and via training courses;
5. Iraqi secondary school students engaged in workshops and in field trips for enhancing their bonds with their common past and heritage;
6. Local and national museums implemented via new learning itineraries;
7. Local communities and students involved in museum initiatives via the creation of civic associations.

Duration
• 30 months - 15/3/2017 - 15/09/2019