

# HOLOGRAMME: A TUNISO-SICILIAN CROSS-BORDER CULTURAL PROJECT

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## 1. What is the relationship between tangible and intangible cultural heritage?

What is cultural heritage? How can we characterize it? For most Tunisians, the term cultural heritage immediately brings to mind those «old stones» strewn across our national territory: the archeological site of Carthage, the ancient city of Dougga, the El-Jem coliseum, the Punic relics of Kerkouane... as well as the medinas of Tunis, Kairouan and Sousse or the magnificent mosaics exhibited in the Bardo National Museum and elsewhere.

Where did these antique and historic relics come to us from? The archeologist who passed on to me this love of old stones once told me: «History, my girl, isn't complicated. What you can see today is the result of the work of men upon this earth». This excellent definition allows us to better grasp the strong link tying together tangible heritage (i.e. «old stones») and intangible cultural heritage: knowledge and know-how that are transmitted from generation to generation. Indeed, as long as this mode of transmission is not interrupted, this knowledge and know-how allow mankind to continue to shape their environment according to this or that custom or technique.

Intangible cultural heritage is intimately linked to the individuals, groups or communities that practice it. Unlike sites or monuments, humans move around, taking with them their knowledge, confronting it with that of others, learning and appreciating new things... and as a result of these exchanges, knowledge and know-how evolve. Intangible cultural heritage is a living, moving and evolving heritage. It is thanks to such know-how and labor that mankind produces these immobile constructions, which our more or less distant descendants will one day consider as THEIR tangible cultural heritage, particularly the monumental elements, more impervious to the passing of time.

I would like to tell you a lovely story: that of the «Wall of knowledge».

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