

Training in mosaic conservation in the Palestinian Territories

*Osama Hamdan, Clara Benelli and Nidal Khatib,
Mosaic Centre – Committee for the Promotion of Tourism in the Governorate of Jericho,
Palestine, May 2007*affiliation

A project to train a group of Palestinians in the conservation of ancient mosaics was funded, during 1999-2002, by the Italian Cooperation, managed by the NGO CISS in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and was under the scientific supervision of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum.

The training course lasted three years and ended in October 2003. Since January 2004, some of the trainees established the Mosaic Centre, as a branch of the Palestinian NGO “Committee for the Promotion of Tourism in the Governorate of Jericho”. The Centre in Jericho runs a laboratory for making new mosaics and has organized training courses for mosaic restoration and mosaic making, for both children and adults.

Since 2000, the Mosaic Centre of Jericho and the Madaba Mosaic School (Jordan) have carried out joint training courses on mosaic restoration during the summers. Right from the start, this was a very successful enterprise and in 2002 the Palestinian and Jordanian trainees were joined by Syrian and Lebanese students.