UNESCO training on photogrammetry and 3D scanning of the Old City of Sana’a

UNESCO Cluster Office for the Gulf States and Yemen conducted a training on Photogrammetry and 3D scanning in Amman, Jordan, from 22-26 July 2018. Experts from ICONEM trained eight Yemeni representatives from the Social Fund for Development (SFD), General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities (GOPHCY) and the General Organization for Antiquities and Museums (GOAM) on using modern methods of Photogrammetry and 3D scanning. This training aims at documenting the Old City of Sana’a for future conservation and rehabilitation works, as well as provide Yemenis with professional means to safeguard their cultural heritage.

With the ongoing efforts to preserve cultural heritage in Yemen and within the framework of implementing the project of “Preserving Cultural Heritage and Diversity in Complex Emergencies” funded by the European Union, UNESCO organized a training on Photogrammetry and 3D scanning of the Old City of Sana’a. During the training, experts from the Social Fund for Development (SFD), General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities (GOPHCY) and the General Organization for Antiquities and Museums (GOAM) were trained by ICONEM on using different methods of Photogrammetry and 3D scanning.

Through this training, Yemenis were able to identify their needs and build their capacity in order to document tangible heritage effectd by conflict. The Yemeni trainees participated in daily intensive field training at Jabal Al Qala’a (Amman Citadel), where they put into practice methods of using Photogrammetry and 3D scanning by documenting the Umayyad Palace at Jabal Al Qala’a. Through this practice, the Yemeni trainees were able to discover and experience different approaches to documenting standing buildings and objects in different light settings and conditions, in order to create 3D models of the buildings. Field training was followed up with sessions on image archive management, dataset development and processing, in addition to an introduction to 3D free software.

UNESCO provided the Yemeni organizations with Photogrammetry and 3D scanning equipment needed to perform 3D documentation of heritage in Yemen starting with the historic World Heritage City of Sana’a.
This training is the first activity within the project “Cash for work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen” that was signed in July 2018 and that aims to provide employment opportunities in the heritage sector in Yemen while restoring heritage damaged in the conflict.

UNESCO Cluster Office for the Gulf States and Yemen Yemen has been implementing a range of activities, mobilizing resources and cooperation through its institutional partners in Yemen and abroad since the beginning of the conflict in Yemen as part of the Action Plan for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Yemen, which was adopted in 2015.