

# Islam, Heritage for all

Cultural project of pedagogical content

**AGAINST RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA**

Organized and coordinated by :  
Islamic Culture Foundation

 مؤسسه الثقافة الإسلامية  
fundación de cultura islámica

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## INTRODUCTION

The experience of the Islamic Culture Foundation in the field of research and development, shows that the study of other cultures enriches our own concepts and helps to dismantle prejudices thus encouraging communication among different peoples.

Being aware of the important role that education plays in promoting new generations of young people who are solidarian and free of ancestral prejudices, the Foundation undertook -at the end of 2000- a cultural project presented under the motto "Islam, heritage for all".

Subsequently, 2001 was declared by the United Nations Organization the year of "Fight against Racism and Xenophobia", which culminated with the celebration in South Africa of the "World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance". It was in this context that, for the first time, Islamophobia was recognized as one of the most severe xenophobic manifestations which must be fought against these days.

"Islam, Heritage for all" came to join the actions under the framework for the above-mentioned International Declaration thus becoming, due to its informative character, one of the most useful instruments to fight islamophobic trends which threaten the coexistence in current society.

## OBJECTIVES

The main objective of "Islam, Heritage for all", is to spread the knowledge about Islamic Culture thus contributing to the elimination of a series of clichés and prejudices which condition our relation to it.

The project is mainly addressed at Spanish students attending Primary and Secondary Schools, although its informative character makes it suitable for other types of public.

Our aim is to teach our schoolchildren about a world unknown to them, but whose values and schemes of thought conform the milieu in which many young immigrants, who in some cases are their neighbours, live.

The exhibition allows them to contemplate Islamic Culture in a more objective fashion, because it is presented in a way that arises their curiosity and interest providing simple as well as ludic and amusing information, which is also accurate. In addition, the students are able to identify it as a major part of their own History.

This way, the pejorative and discriminatory views which are often characteristic of the relations among members of different cultures and religions will fade away.

The current situation of Islamic Countries and the sprouts of racism which cast a shadow in nowadays world, point out to the need for a project of this kind, which encourages mutual awareness and intercultural dialogue. Furthermore, it also paves the way for a future society more open and where cultural diversity is understood as a mutually beneficial interchange and not as a reason for confrontation.

## PROJECT CONTENTS

"Islam, Heritage for all" is a cultural project of pedagogical content which is made up of an itinerant exhibition addressed to Primary and Secondary School students and also a training programme for teachers and volunteers.

The exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all" is based on rigorous research from both a historical and actual perspectives. It is made up by 36 panels, grouped in 9 modules with a modern and attractive design, which contain information about every aspect of the Islamic Civilization, as well as a good selection of pictures and illustrations.



Along with it, there are a series of interactive elements aimed at stimulating direct participation from students, thus contributing to reinforcing the knowledge and comprehension of the information transmitted through this exhibition.

Some of these elements have been specially conceived to involucrate the world of the senses as a way of getting closer to the Islamic Culture. Among the elements on the exhibition, there are some olfative devices which impregnate the atmosphere with the aromas most peculiar to the Islamic World. Its music and its most representative sounds are also reproduced, and there are also samples of the products and spices more often used. The sensitive perception of visitors is thus awakened in an original and enjoyable way.

Workshops, conferences, colloquia, interactive games and other parallel activities can also be organised along with the exhibition. These activities are monitored by the Foundation trainers.

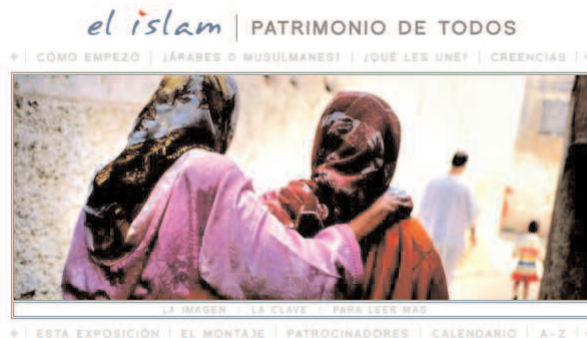
On the other hand, the teacher training programme includes some periodical courses providing an "approach to the Islamic Culture". The aim is to give the participants some extended background information about the contents they will find in the exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all". This will facilitate notoriously the preparation for the visit of the student groups and also the process of carrying out some exercises and works regarding that visit.



These teacher training courses will be organized by the Islamic Culture Foundation and will take place in coordination with the CAP ("Trainee teachers") from the area where the exhibition is held. Academic credits will be given to all the participants.

The Foundation will also provide, at its seat, some training courses social volunteers so that they can be cultural trainers. Their objective will be to explain the contents of the exhibition, providing extended information and explaining any possible questions related to it.

In the context of "Islam, Heritage for all", several works have been published, such as a workbook for teachers and a general catalogue for the exhibition including all the texts and pictures. This catalogue is on sale at the exhibition, at the Foundation and also in the main Spanish bookshops.



The web of the Islamic Culture Foundation includes a micro-space for this project.



In order to spread the awareness about the exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all", some posters, t-shirts, postcards, pins, etc., have been designed altruistically by the artists Javier Mariscal and Kukuxumusu.



The funds obtained shall be used exclusively for the maintenance of the project.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all" is made up of the following elements:

**Nine modules with 36 panels in total** (four panels per module) where the thematic contents are developed by means of more than 200 pictures and illustrations about the Islamic World.

**A table with two astrolabes** and a sign with explanations and how to use them.

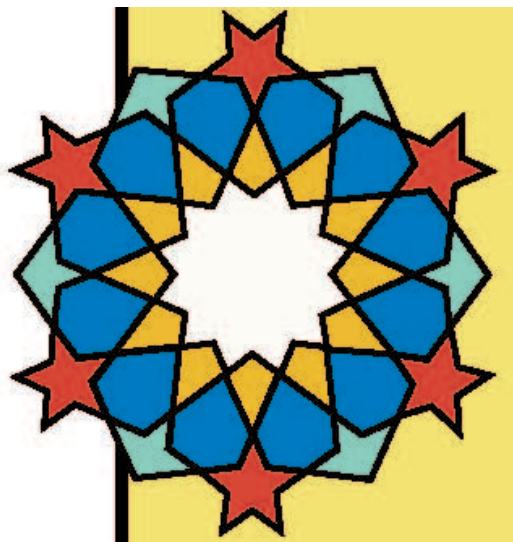
**Three exhibitor tables;** each of them containing two metallic cylinders made of methacrylate with products typical to those countries and their description.

**Three tables containing two olfactive devices** which reproduce the aromas of the diverse products from the Islamic World and their respective description.



**One table dedicated to Arabic Calligraphy,** containing several rubber stamps reproducing the first sentence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "All human beings are born free and equal" in six different modalities of Arab writing.

**A table containing a big puzzle** representing beautiful tiles with the geometrical designs more often used in Islamic architecture. The puzzle can be composed by visitors.



## **STANDARD PROCEDURE**

### ***Requirements***

The exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all" will be on display in places such as exhibition centres, schools and cultural or social associations providing they meet the necessary requirements.

In the case of exhibition centres, the exhibition will be open to the general public, whereas visits organised by schools will be programmed in advance.

In order to facilitate the explanations and organization of activities on the spot, the groups shall not exceed 30 students per visit.

The parallel education activities organised to be developed at schools, will be coordinated by school teachers together with cultural trainers belonging to the Foundation. The teacher training courses provided by the Foundation will be coordinated by the CAP ("trainee teachers") of that area.

The space required for the exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all" is about 200 m<sup>2</sup> and it must have all the necessary equipment.

It is also necessary for the host organization to take into account that two days are needed for the set-up of the exhibition and two more for dismantling it.

The graphic design for the exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all" is always respected and it is adapted to the hosting venue by the Foundation. The design consists of posters and triptics with the names and logos of local sponsor organizations.

### ***Budget***

The exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all" has been designed and implemented altruistically by the Islamic Culture Foundation in cooperation with a great number of intellectuals and professional people. The exhibition came into being thanks to the financing provided by several organizations both public and private. It was conceived so that the costs for the host organizations could be minimal.

These costs are related to the transport of the exhibition materials from the previous venue -which are rated according to distance-, the set-up and dismantling carried out by professional staff hired by the Foundation, the renewal of the aromas and products of the exhibition, the printing of materials and the insurance.

### ***Request procedure for hosting the exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all"***

Those organizations interested in hosting the exhibition, are invited to send a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Islamic Culture Foundation stating the preferred dates.

It is necessary to allow enough time -taking into account the itinerant agenda of the exhibition- to organize the teacher training courses and parallel education activities when required.

The foundation will answer the request and confirm the available dates according to the itinerant agenda of the exhibition. A detailed budget specifying the costs will also be sent.

More information can be obtained through the Foundation either by phone: (+34) 91 543 46 73 or via e-mail: [info@funci.org](mailto:info@funci.org).



## SPONSORSHIP

Ayuntamiento de Madrid (City Council- Madrid)  
*Concejalía de Asuntos Sociales (Social Affairs Department)*  
Comunidad de Madrid (Regional Authority-Madrid)  
*Consejería de Educación (Education Department)*  
Instituto de Psicología Transcultural (Institute of Transcultural Psychology)  
Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte (Spanish Ministry of Education,  
Culture and Sport)  
Trasmediterránea (Maritime Transport Company)  
UNESCO  
Fundación Cultura de Paz (Culture for Peace Foundation)

## COLLABORATORS

Alianza Editorial  
Bokart  
CEMIRA  
Estudio Mariscal  
Eugenio González  
Exmoarte  
Inés Eléxpuru  
Kukuxumusu·  
Solidarios  
[www.miguelripoll.com](http://www.miguelripoll.com)

### *Photography*

Inés Eléxpuru, Yolanda Guardione, Isidoro Merino, Navia, Oronoz Fotógrafos,  
Sergi Ramis (Revista Altaïr)

### *Graphic Design*

Isabel de Burgos

### *Graphic Edition*

Paola Ojeda

### *Infographics*

Javier Velloso

### *Elements Design*

Bernardo García Tapia y Fernando Pardo, Jesús Moreno & Asociados,  
Ingeniería cultural

### *Olfative devices*

Darío Sirerol

## **Organizations and companies collaborating with the exhibition "Islam, Heritage for all" in its itinerary throughout the Spanish regions:**

Museo de la Ciudad. Madrid, ONCE, Ayuntamiento de Galapagar, Instituto Enseñanza Secundaria. EL Espinillo, Ayuntamiento de Almería, Caja Madrid. Obra Social, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Gobierno de Cantabria, Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, Caja Cantabria, Instituto de la Juventud, Europa contra el Racismo, Junta de Andalucía, Ayuntamiento de Córdoba, FETE-UGT Córdoba, Diputación de Córdoba, Gobierno de Aragón, Fundación Bernardo Aladrén, Ayuntamiento de San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Real Colegio Universitario Reina M<sup>TM</sup> Cristina, CAP San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Universidad de León, Ayuntamiento de Villablino (León). Telemadrid

### **Itinerary carried out by the exhibition :**

Museo de la Ciudad. Madrid. (March 2001)  
Centro Cívico y Social Reina Sofía. Galapagar. (April 2001)  
IES El Espinillo. Villaverde. Madrid. (May 2001). (Secondary School)  
Festival Alamar 2001. Almería. (June 2001).(Mediterranean Culture Festival)  
Cursos de verano UCM. San Lorenzo de El Escorial. (August 2001)  
(University Summer Courses)  
Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo. Santander. (September 2001)  
(University)  
Semana contra el Racismo. Facultad de Medicina. UCM. (November 2001)  
(Week against Racism)  
Jornadas Educación Inmigración. Palacio Congresos de Córdoba. (November 2001) (Meeting on Education and Immigration)  
Edificio Pignatelli. Zaragoza. (February 2002).(Government Seat for the Aragon Region)  
Aula 2002. IFEMA. Madrid. (March 2002). (Education Fair)  
Real Colegio Universitario M<sup>TM</sup> Cristina. San Lorenzo de El Escorial (April 2002)  
5ª Muestra de Primavera. Ayuntamiento de Móstoles. (May 2002)  
Cursos de verano de la Universidad Carlos III. Villablino. León. (July 2002)  
Museo de la Ciudad. Madrid (August 2002)  
Ente Público Radio Televisión. Telemadrid. (September 2002)

### **Programme 2002/2003**

October 2002: University Miguel Hernández. Elche (Alicante)  
November 2002/January 2003: Museo de Cáceres. Cáceres (Museum)  
February 2003: Centro Cultural de la Villa de Móstoles (Madrid)  
March 2003: Leganés (Madrid)

## ANEX I: SPONSORSHIP LETTER FROM UNESCO

№ 870



### COMISIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE LA UNESCO

Paseo de Juan XXIII, 5 - 28040 MADRID  
Tels.: 91 554 35 16 - 91 533 96 39 - Fax: 91 535 14 33  
e-mail: hispaunesco@mad.servicom.es

Sr. D. Nestor Martínez  
Secretario General  
Fundación de Cultura Islámica  
C/Guzmán el Bueno, 3  
28015 MADRID.-

Madrid, 27 de Octubre de 2000

Distinguido amigo:

Le agradezco mucho el informe que me ha remitido sobre el proyecto de exposición "La Cultura Islámica Patrimonio de todos", que está realizando la Fundación de Cultura Islámica.

Creo que contribuye a algo tan necesario hoy en día como crear un clima en el que el racismo y la xenofobia sean erradicados de nuestra sociedad. Considero, pues, oportuno concederle el patrocinio de esta Comisión, ya que los fines que la exposición persigue corresponden perfectamente con los que promueve la UNESCO.

Un cordial saludo.

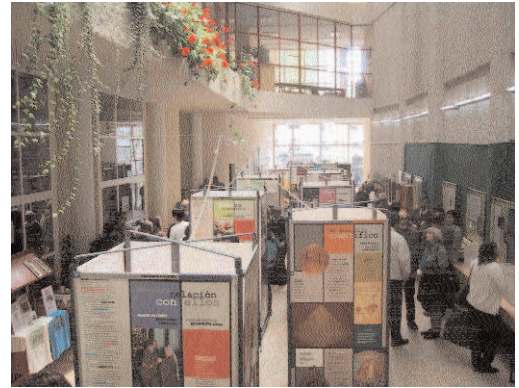
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Spottorno".

Carlos Spottorno  
Secretario General

## ANEX II: IMAGES FROM THE EXHIBITION



Intervención del Presidente de la Fundación de Cultura Islámica, en el acto inaugural de la exposición en el Museo de la Ciudad.



Vista de la exposición en el Centro Cultural Reina Sofía de Galapagar.



Cursos de Verano de la UCM. San Lorenzo de El Escorial. El Presidente de la FUNCJI conversando con el Vicerrector de Investigación de la UCM.



Vista general de la exposición en el Euroforum Infantes. Cursos de Verano de la UCM en San Lorenzo de El Escorial.



Córdoba, panorámica de la exposición en el Palacio de Congresos.

La Consejera de Cultura de la Junta de Andalucía, en la inauguración de la exposición en el Palacio de Congresos de Córdoba.

