

THE LEGACY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN GAMES



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The legacy of the Mediterranean Games is fundamental to promote our Games. It is incredible to notice how in the last four editions: Tunis 2001, Almeria 2005, Pescara 2009 and Mersin 2013, over 95% of the facilities are still in use nowadays and that the Mediterranean villages after the Games have been transferred to Universities or Hospitals or sold to the population.

The Mediterranean Sea is a shore common to many Countries, the sea does not separate Nations and continents but unite them; this is the first and most important legacy. The Games witness the wish to progress and for this reason, thanks to the NOCs and to their leaders, they have overcome the turbulence of the region.

The Games have contributed to the sport development of the countries that have hosted them often with considerable financial efforts. Witness of this are the Sport complexes of Tunis, Algiers, Casablanca and Oran and also certain facilities in Athens, Almeria and Tarragona.

This report will be limited to the analysis of certain aspects:

- Tangible Legacy
- Non-tangible Legacy

Tangible Legacy

Mediterranean Village

- Sport Facilities
- Eventual infrastructures
- Increase in the number of the practice of sport

Non-tangible legacy

- Enthusiasm created by the Games
- Satisfaction of the citizens
- Better perception of sport by the population, media, sponsors, politics, culture, industry, etc.
- Atmospheres

The last four editions of the Games will be taken into consideration together with a small projection on Tarragona 2018 and Oran 2021.

TUNIS 2001



ALMERIA 2005



PESCARA 2009



MERSIN 2013



TARRAGONA 2018



ORAN 2021



TUNIS 2001



The Games in Tunisia were a National event that used the entire potential of the Country that provided everything required to ensure their success.

The Games had a huge success.

Tangible legacy

1) The Mediterranean Village

A new Village was built in Rades with around 1000 apartments able to host 5000 athletes and officials. It was a social work; the apartments were sold at moderate prices to 1000 families.

2) Sport City

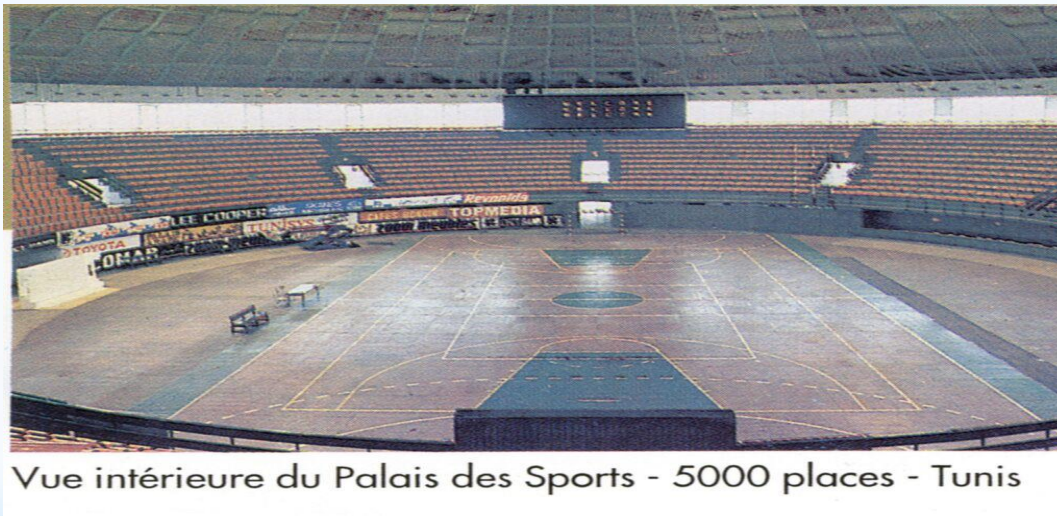
It was built close to the Mediterranean Village with a football stadium (60.000 spectators), an Athletics Stadium (5.000), an Aquatic Centre with two Olympic swimming pools (indoor and outdoor) and an Omni sport Hall (10.000). This Centre has always been used also for important national and international events.



Stade olympique de Radès

3) Renovation and adjustment of sport facilities

27 sites for competitions and 20 for training were used for the Games. All of them were renovated and all of them are still being used.



4) Anti-doping laboratory

It was built for the Games and is nowadays the second most important one in Africa.

5) Strategy for the preparation of athletes

It was conceived in view of the Games and was based on the training and psychological and medical follow up of the athletes (2000 athletes in 1997-1998 and 500 in 2000 and 2001). For this purpose the National Centre for sport elite was built in Tunis. It includes: a hotel, a medical centre, various specialised training halls, various outdoor training areas and various regional preparation centres.

This structure allowed Tunisia to obtain its best ever results in the history of the Mediterranean Games with 58 medals, ranking 6th in the medal tally.

Nowadays it allows Tunisian athletes to obtain good results at international level.

House of Sport Federations

It was the headquarters of the Organising Committee and was handed to the Federations. It is one of the major acquisitions for Tunisian Sport. It would not have existed without the Games.

6) Renovation of infrastructures

The main roads were renovated for the Games as well as the roads that lead to the competition and training sites. The most important work was Bourghiba Avenue, which is the most important of the city.

Non-tangible legacy

Tunisia lived a complete feast and in addition to national pride it gave strong feelings to the youth:

- ❖ reconciliation of the public with the Tunisian team
- ❖ strong feeling of belonging to the Mediterranean basin
- ❖ a study on 100.000 youngsters who first considered themselves Mediterranean and then African and Mussulmen Arabs
- ❖ a never before seen increase of volunteers
- ❖ the acquisition of important knowledge by those who took part in the organisation

- ❖ thanks to the 2001 Games many companies were set up and are now entrusted with the organisation of any type of event thus leaving to Sport Federations and to clubs only technical aspects
- ❖ An important increase of youngsters practising sport, first in the various town areas and then in organised structures such as clubs, etc.
- ❖ There were 93.164 affiliated in 2001 and 147.000 in 2017
- ❖ 599 clubs in 2002 and 1200 in 2017
- ❖ 30 federations in 2002 and 47 in 2017

It is certain that the legacy left by the Games is huge for the City and for the Country also for the drive given to national effort for the promotion and development of sport, economy and tourism.



El Menzah Stadium

ALMERIA 2005



The Games in Almeria were spectacular as they included the three elements necessary for success: presence of spectators, good organisation and medals won by the home team (in this edition of the Games, Spain established its record of medals).

Many elements contributed to the success of the Games: number of participating NOCs, athletes, spectators, mass media, sponsors, on line results system, transport, Mediterranean Village, information technology, hotel of the Mediterranean family, sport sites and the 4000 volunteers.



For the first time it was possible to view the Games on Eurosport and various Arab channels such as Al Jazeera and Sport Channels of EBU, ASBU and TVE.

Roads were full of people also thanks to the excellent cultural programme organised by the City and by the Government of Andalusia financed by the European Union. Let us see some data:



Mediterranean Village

Very nice and on the sea. It was sold to private citizens already before the beginning of the Games.



Sport Facilities

For the competitions of 27 sports/disciplines a total of 20 sites were used. All of them are still being used.



**Estadio
Mediterráneo**



Social recognition

A study carried out in 2014 underlined the following:

- ❖ the degree of satisfaction of the population of Almeria , compared to expectation, was of over 70%
- ❖ the percentage of the population that felt proud of the Games was of over 94%
- ❖ index of sport practice - 31,8% of those who use sport centres did not practice a physical activity

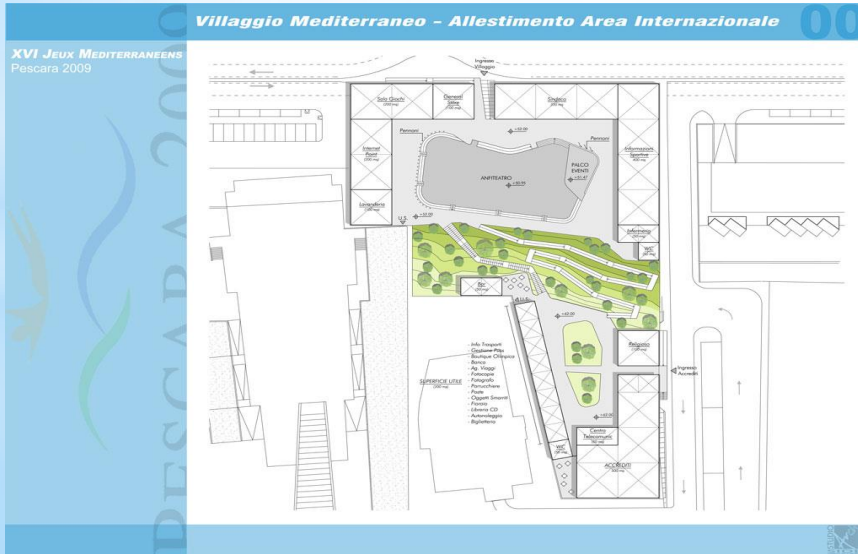
PESCARA 2009



The Games in Pescara finished with success in spite the difficulties of the region due to the earthquake.

Mediterranean Village

It was built on an area of 17 hectares, 7 of which reserved to green public areas. 450 apartments, ranging from 50 to 250 square meters, able to accommodate 4575 persons. Two thirds of the apartments were transferred to the University and to the Hospital of Chieti and one third was sold to private citizens.



Sport Facilities

33 sport facilities (29 sports/disciplines) were used for the Games on the territory of the region in the provinces of Pescara, Chieti, Teramo and L'Aquila.

20 facilities were renovated and enlarged, 5 temporary and another 8 facilities did not require any adjustment.



The most important renovations were made on 3 facilities: Adriatic Stadium (where the Pescara football team plays - league A/B), the Aquatic centre of Naiadi and Bomba Lake for canoeing and rowing.



Over 95% of the facilities are still being used.

About 4000 volunteers contributed to the organisation.

As for sport results, Pescara will be remembered for two World records established in the swimming competitions.

Because of the earthquake the Region had to use many hotels to accommodate around 60.000 people.



MERSIN 2013



Mersin accomplished a great achievement since it had little time to organise the Games and it was able to do it well and also to build a Mediterranean Village.

Mediterranean Village (capacity of 5.500)

Is now being used fully as dormitory of the Mersin University. This was a great legacy for improving student's life and social activities after the Games.



Sport Facilities

A total of 52 Venues for competition and training was used. 9 new venues built for the Mersin Games, all 52 venues are being used now for training and competition of different sport.



Mersin Arena Stadium



Servet Tazegül Sports Hall



Mersin Olympic Swimming Pool



Nevin Yanıt Athletics Complex



Mersin Gymnastics Hall



Macit Özcan Sports Complex

Mersin is a growing city and more young and elite athletes are using the venues. The Headquarter of the Organising Committee is now a Hotel for the Olympic Preparation Centre.

Infrastructures

The Med Games not only contributed toward the city's sport infrastructure, it also bolstered its entire infrastructure in general, the construction or improvement of a number of new roads, the upgrading of touristic facilities, the improvement of cleaning environments services etc.

Culture

People from a myriad of cultures around of the mediterranean visited the city because of the Games, whereas the city's citizens, university students and organisations employees had an opportunity to make wider contacts with other cultures. This mingling of cultures which is going to increase human infrastructures as well as increase tolerance is one of the most important legacies of the organisation.

Labor force

The Games contributed to the increase of sports culture in Turkey and the spreading of the spirit of peace and brotherhood amongst mediterranean Nations. The managerial team is now a core structure put together that is going to function in future top-level sports organisation on behalf of Turkey by increasing its quality work force.

Tourism

Guests visiting Mersin because of the Games became acquainted with the beauty of the city and its environs and were hosted in the city as volunteer honorary ambassadors who are going to spread firsthand the touristic potential and culture of Mersin during the year ahead.

The Mediterranean Games was a giant project that further integrated Mersin with the world that made serious contributions toward a permanent sports culture, that increased the city's sportive and non sportive infrastructures, contributed toward the promotion of the city and the country while increasing business opportunities and labor force.

Some words about Tarragona 2018 and Oran 2021

Tarragona will have 29 sports and 28 venues the athletes will stay in hotels along the coast; it has also various excellent venues like the Omnisports hall of Salou, the Reus Pavillon, the Complar sport palace, the Acquatic Complex etc.



Mediterranean Ring



Gimnastic Football Stadium



Castelfells



Camp de Mart Auditorium



35

Tarraco Arena Plaza



Mediterranean Village PortAventura Park



PortAventura Hotel



PortAventura Hotel
El Paso



PortAventura Hotel
Caribe

Oran has some outstanding Hotels, a surprising Sport Complex - under the last phase of construction - with a Stadium for 40.000, a Sports hall for 6.000, an Acquatic Center for 2.400 and a Mediterranean Village able to accommodate 10.000



Sports Complex





Mediterranean
Village
Belgraid





Tennis Club St. Hubert



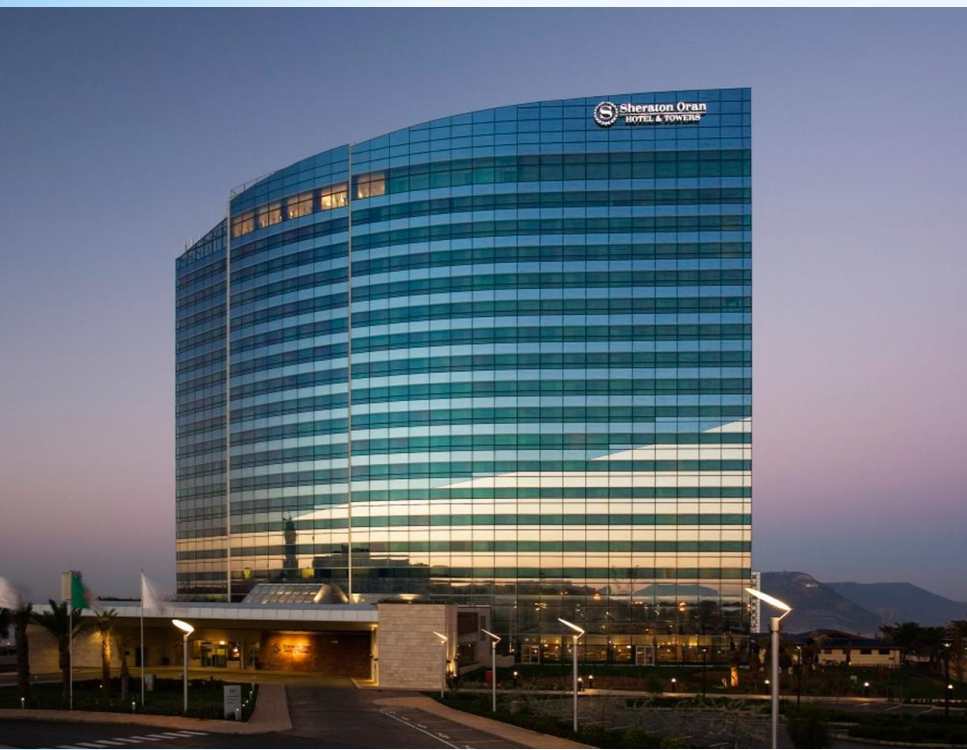
Stadium Ahmed Zabana



Palais des Sports



Olympic Swimming Pool



Sheraton Hotel

Le Méridien Oran Hotel &
Convention Centre-
Auditorium



This study is based on the official reports of the four cities, which often lacked of useful information.

The collaboration of Mohamed Zribi, for Tunis and of Victor Sanchez and Juan Luis Navarro for Almeria, was precious.

You can deduce from the above that as regard tangible and non tangible legacy the Mediterranean Games have given very much.

Since the report on Tunis includes many of the aspects of the legacy it allowed me to be shorter with the other cities and to mention only the essential points.

I would also like to add a few personal observations:

The Games organised in the South are a National happening and represent the pride of the Country, when they are organised in the North they are more of a local and regional event. The Games are usually organised in a Region and this contributes to ensure that, by the use of existing structures, unnecessary costs or wastes are avoided and, most of all, that facilities will be used in the future.

The special atmosphere during the Games must not be forgotten: for the athletes the absence of stress from results creates a more relaxed atmosphere, as compared to other competitions, and allows them to enjoy the sea, lights, music, perfumes and to talk to other people. It is possible to sit in the sun and have a coffee with a friend from far away and to learn of his thoughts, challenges, joys, worries and concerns.

We have seen what the Games have given to the cities, what have they given to the NOCs?

When the Games were held one year before the Olympics, it allowed to test the team, athletes, technical and administrative staff and mostly allowed the meeting of high level athletes of various disciplines; it was the only opportunity to create the spirit of unity of the team.

When organised after the Olympic Games it allowed to begin a new cycle with new young high level athletes and contributing to overcome the stress of participating in a multi-sport event.

There are complaints about the difficulty of the international calendar and about the costs of the Games for the NOCs, especially in this moment of economic crisis. Should this be true it is necessary to find a possible solution. For example one could be to work together in order to ensure that certain events of the Games be considered as Olympic qualification for certain sports/ disciplines. This would help both the calendar and the costs.

The reduction of the number of sports on the programme, as well as of the number of participating athletes, would certainly contribute to reducing costs, both for the organisers and the NOCs.

With regard to the above arguments, mine is a modest contribution. Since I am convinced that legacy is a fundamental value for the success of the Games, I hope that in the future someone will dedicate himself to the study of this phenomenon.

Thank you

Acknowledgements:

Mohamed Zribi for Tunis

Victor Sanchez and Juan Luis Navarro for Almeria

CONI's School of Sport and its library for Pescara

Nese Gundogan for Mersin

ICMG Secretariat Isidoros Kouvelos and Katerina Mouratidou