Paper / Proposal Title:
The Medina of Tunis facing the modern city. Tangible, intangible and social values in an Arabic old city

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Presentation Method. I would like to:
i. present in person (with a written paper)

Abstract (300 words):
The cultural heritage is presented in different, physical and non-tangible forms and attributes. Cities of the middle age are a glorious testimony and a singular trace of a specific architectural vocabulary, and also, an urban and social networking reflecting a particular way of living of the previous civilizations.
The Medina (old Arabic city) of Tunis is a city which flourished in North Africa since the 8th century. Until the present days, it is a place of living and attracting tourists coming from all around the world to experience the Arabic spirit and atmosphere in its alleys and streets. However, located in the heart centre of the Tunisian capital, the Medina had to endure the negative aspects of the urban growth pressure. This problem has
become steadily more critical since the implantation of the modern city during the French colonization.

The objective of the paper is to present the rehabilitation project of the Medina of Tunis, which was designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1979. We will analyse the interaction between the tangible and intangible values of a city, from the one side, and the social needs and practices, from the other side, starting from a global context to the particular case of the Arabic Islamic city of the Medina. In addition to that, we will evaluate if the social implication and participation are taken into consideration in the main urban projects and interventions in the city.

As a conclusion, we will suggest a reflection of how to consider the different tangibles and intangibles parameters of the city and involving the social groups to preserve the city’s identity and respond to its users’ needs.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Sarah Ben Salem in an architect graduated from the National School of Architecture and Urban planning in Tunisia. She done her master thesis about the integration of a cultural project in an urban historical park. She pursued her studies in Hungary. She is preparing a doctoral thesis in the Faculty of Landscape Architecture and Urban planning in the Szent István University of Budapest. Her research is about to deal with the problematic of the heritage management in the context of urban pressure. Particularly in transforming cities, stating a north African case study to later open the prospects for comparing it with case studies from different contexts particularly in European countries.