




live ARCH

WORKSHOP REPORT



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*live*ARCH workshop report

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Historisch OpenluchtMuseum

Eindhoven (NL)

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Lofotr Viking Museum (NO)

Fotevikens Museum (SE)

The Scottish Crannog Centre (UK)

Parco archeologico e Museo all'aperto della Terramara di Montale (IT)

Pfahlbaumuseum Unteruhldingen (D)


 The logo for liveARCH features the word "live" in a white, lowercase, serif font inside a black rectangular box. To the right of this box, the word "ARCH" is written in a large, bold, black, uppercase, serif font.

liveARCH

liveARCH is a network of 8 archaeological open air museums committed to fostering an awareness of the past via a strongly evocative bias based on reconstructing historical settings and activities. It applies experimental archaeology methods and espouses the living history philosophy.

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Workshop report *liveARCH*

by Dr. Gunter Schöbel, Museum Direktor

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2. Chairman of the Association EXARC, European Archeological Open Air Museums

Intercultural Dialogue is of great importance. Understanding the history of our neighbors in Europe throughout the millennia, helps to shape the present, and enables us to build a shares future. In view of this goal, the project *liveARCH*, which was generously supported by the DG Culture in Brussels, was of utmost significance for the eight participating museums in view of their educational mission to present Live History. But above all, the museum visitors and the people of the eight participating countries were able to learn the meaning of qualitative valuable events that present Live History. The knowledge transfer between the museums concerning the development of European people within the last millennia, and the conveyance of this knowledge to the public, is hence without doubt the central benefit derived from the project that was developed over three-years. Prior to the project "*liveARCH*", "*Living History*", "*Living Archeology*", the associated members of open air museums had already created related projects such as "*Archaeolive*" (DG Culture 1998 – 2001) and "*Delphi*" (DG Culture 2005), projects that had also been supported by the DG Culture and Education. These projects attempted to establish the new form of interactive museum with their different potentials at locations in Italy, Austria, Latvia, Netherlands, and Germany. With these programs, the association EXARC, International Organisation of

4 Archaeological Open Air Museums, had

established itself within Europe since 2001. The project *liveARCH* now offered the chance to expand its focus and in addition to the eight main key players, integrate over 200 archeological open air museums along new quality standards. The benefits of this cooperation have become visible with the museum guide of open air museums in Europe that was produced because of a project in Modena, Italy.

The plan for this project was initiated at the EXARC conference 2005 in Biskupin, Poland. It was followed by eight jointly organised events between 2006 and 2009, starting 2006 in the Netherlands and ending 2009 in Hungary. A component of these events consisted of four workshops and one "Final Event", which are reported on in exemplary manner in this volume. In Scotland (14. – 18.3.2007), the emphasis were put on the interaction and forms of dialogues with museum visitors. In Norway, (3. – 7.3.2008) training was developed to successfully apply marketing within the museum as well as to relations with the public. These efforts aimed at improving the organisation within the respective institution itself, and the effect of the museums work on tourism and regional development. Latvia focused on the illustration of prehistoric handicrafts, the exchange of archeo-technician within their own institutions, and the issue of the best presentation of "Intangible Heritage Resources" for the museums

audience. In Hungary (8. – 11.10.2009) presentations and discussions centered on the meaning of a sustainable dialogue between science and the museums, which would aim to convey scientific results in an understandable manner. In Germany (21. – 24.05.2009), attention was given to developing the framework for a “Final Event”, the presentation of “Living History” for a large audience. Over a two-day period, 6000 years of history could actually be conveyed to about 5000 visitors. A scientific congress, the results of which will be published separately, informed the scientific research community. Radio, newspapers, and television informed more than one million people in Germany about the methods of conveying “Living History”. Together with the meetings of representatives from the Netherlands, in Sweden, in Modena Italy, at the first congress of the European archeological open air museums, the project created a sound foundation for a future cooperation within Europe. At the same time, the International Council of Museum (ICOM) meanwhile also honored efforts for the presentation of a joint European heritage. The supporting association EXARC received at the end of the Programme in December 2009 an “Affiliate Status”, and will thereby be able to extend its work beyond the European boundaries. This would not have been possible without the support of the European Commission, which has extended its support for over ten years.

Concluding, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to anchor the archeological open air museums into the museums landscape. Firstly, my sincere thanks goes to Dorine Prinsen at the Museum at Eindhoven, Netherlands,

I then would like to express my appreciation to the seven partners from the participating countries and the Project Office with Bert van Valburg and Roeland Paardekoooper as the leading initiators. I want to also mention all the participating museum directors and employees of the Crannog Center, the Lofotr Viking Museum, the Arais Lake Fortress Foundation, the Matrica Múzeum és Régészeti Park, the Historisch Openlucht Museum Eindhoven, the Museum Foteviken, the Museen Modena, and the Lake Dwelling Museum Unteruhldingen. They all made it possible to create such a valuable project for the benefit of the European people. They all contributed to reach our common goal to promote Living History as presented in the open air museums to the next level in the development of museum work.