

CDCPP THEMATIC SESSION, 23 November 2022

THE EUROPEAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL and the CoE recommendations

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The topics addressed in the CoE recommendations that are relevant to archaeological heritage management are reflected in the EAC activities, because these documents touch the basis of modern archaeology and reflect the shifts in the CH management.

To mention just a few:

- The landscape approach to archaeological heritage is where our discipline is heading. This is fostered by the growing scope of available environmental analyses and the use of GIS. As last year's thematic session demonstrated, the latter is employed throughout Europe in systemic archaeological heritage management.
- "Prevention is better than cure": preventing risks in the everyday management of cultural heritage translated into archaeological terms as the in situ preservation has been the key concept in archaeological heritage management for decades and surely is one of the main points of interest of the EAC members. And archaeology as a science addresses this issue with non-intrusive survey methods.
- Efforts of archaeological heritage professionals would be in vain without public support. Archaeology is thus opening up to "the outer world" to attract non-archaeologist advocates of this difficult heritage.
- Breaching the walls between cultural and natural heritage preservation is indispensable in balancing the scales of sustainable development in the face of climate changes and the grave consequences they have upon the precious resources of culture and nature.

Through the years, the EAC has provided a forum for sharing experience and best practice, these and other topics have been discussed at annual symposiums (e.g. 2022 - AH and climate change, 2020 - archaeology and public benefit, 2018 - balancing stakeholders in development-led archaeology). Each year's proceedings are published and available online.

The big question on how to be transparent in archaeological choices in order to get people to understand and value AH is a common theme of four EAC working groups dealing with: making the case for development-led archaeology, articulating the significance of archaeological sites, national research frameworks and, last but not least, archaeological archives (at the moment, digital archaeological archiving).