

## **The Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya and the German Archaeological Institute sign an international collaboration agreement in the field of archaeological research at the sites of Empúries and Ullastret.**

. The director of the Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya, Jusèp Boya, and the director of the Madrid section of the German Archaeological Institute, Dirce Marzoli, signed on Wednesday, July 13 in the Greek and Roman city of Empúries, an agreement of scientific collaboration in the field of archaeological research that allows to consolidate, expand and disseminate a line of research of international scope linked to the sites of Empúries and Ullastret.

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Empúries, (L'Escala), July 13, 2022. The director of the Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya, Jusèp Boya, and the director of the Madrid section of the German Archaeological Institute, Dirce Marzoli, signed on Wednesday, July 13 in the Greek and Roman city of Empúries, an agreement of scientific collaboration in the field of archaeological research that allows to consolidate, grow and disseminate a line of international collaboration. The event was organized by the coordinator responsible for the Empúries branch of the MAC, Marta Santos, and the team of curators and researchers of the center. With this initiative, a pioneer in the search for knowledge of ancient landscapes, both institutions amplify and expand their research capacity.

The beginnings of these bonds are inscribed in the context of different archaeological research projects promoted in the 90s aimed at understanding the environment in which the ancient population centers Empúries and Ullastret developed, given that the evolution of the landscape was a determining factor in the definition of settlement patterns. These were multidisciplinary works that jointly addressed the geomorphological and environmental problems which took the form of different geological and archaeological prospecting campaigns in the territory. In the case of Ullastret, this collaboration resulted in significant studies based on geophysical prospecting.

Later, new avenues of research have allowed progress towards landscape archaeology, through which it has been possible to begin to jointly interpret the interrelationship between the dynamics of settlement and landscape, integrating archaeological and paleoenvironmental data in a common record, from geological prospecting surveys, studies of sedimentary records and C14 dating.

This advance in knowledge made it possible to hold a colloquium titled *Entre Mer et Océan: archéologie et paysage littoral* in 2017 in Empúries, which was an international scientific meeting on the archaeology of human occupation and coastal landscapes from prehistory to the present day. The organization of the MAC enjoyed the collaboration of the German Archaeological Institute of Madrid, together with the

Unité Mixte de Recherche 5140 (Archéologie des Sociétés Méditerranéennes) and the Institut Català d'Arqueologia Clàssica (ICAC).

In 2019, the MAC and the DAI of Madrid carried out the archaeological excavation in the area of Espigó's beach of Empúries, promoted by the Servei d'Arqueologia del Departament de Cultura de la Generalitat de Catalunya, which allowed documenting different structures and remains from the Greek period in this area, severely affected in recent years by sea storms. The interesting results of this intervention contributed to continuing the collaboration on new projects, such as Groundcheck 2020, titled Ampurias' Future - Learning from the past. Sea Level evolution and climate change from 5500 BC until AD 2100, promoted and financed by the German government, which has made it possible to recreate in 3D models and diachronically the main stages of the evolution of the landscape and settlement from the Neolithic period to the present day. This same project has been continued in the Groundcheck 2021 program, with the purpose of elaborating future proposals to face the possible impact of the rise of the sea and climate change on the heritage complex of Empúries and its surroundings.

Likewise, this collaborative relationship has also been extended, since 2021, to the archaeological excavation work being carried out in the northern sector of the Greek city of Empúries in the framework of the ongoing research project on the configuration and evolution of the port areas of ancient Empúries, promoted by the MAC and recognized in the call for four-year research projects of the Departament de Cultura de la Generalitat de Catalunya. Thus, the participation and the economic contribution of the German Archaeological Institute of Madrid has been fundamental for the excavation campaign in the Neapolis of Empúries carried out during the months of September and October 2021, works that are expected to continue in the autumn of 2022.

The signed agreement aims, firstly, to formalize, strengthen and at the same time update the collaborative relationship between the Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya and the German Archaeological Institute of Madrid. Secondly, to facilitate the coordination of future scientific actions within the framework of archaeological research, documentation, dissemination, and management in the fields of archaeology and archaeological heritage, and to promote collaboration in the various cultural activities programmed throughout the year. Finally, the formalization of this framework agreement opens the door to the possible establishment of future specific agreements related to specific projects and programs of mutual interest, which will determine the actions, as well as the purposes and means that may be necessary for their realization.

More information.

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