

# Full Proposal Assessment Report

Promoting Organisation

INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Proposal Number

UK/06/B/F/NT/162-583

Project Title

Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe

## SECTION H

### Justification of proposal

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There are changes from pre-proposal. Target groups are training providers; qualification providers; archaeologists; SMEs in the archaeology sector; political decision makers; sectoral organisations. Target sectors are the public and private archaeology sector and related government agencies and the broader cultural heritage sector. Target groups and sectors are European wide.

Initial research conducted in the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) indicates that "type and level of provision of archaeologists varies across Europe". Qualifications are not transparent and therefore often not transferable leading to barriers to employment and mobility.

In order to address these issues the project aims to carry out a survey to establish within partner countries the number of archaeologists employed; demographic data (gender, age), education and other professional requirements to practice; skills; professional roles; salary compared to all workers and professionals in each country. It is now clearly stated that the aim of the project is to form a transnational network of organisations with common interests and aims. Essentially, it is a survey of provision and numbers in the participating countries to produce a report that will lead to "provisional insight". It is stated that nothing exists such as this currently, but the need to undertake such a survey is not supported with evidence nor is the impact of the report evident.

In addition, although an LdV Pilot Project has been undertaken on the Training of Trainers in Field Archaeology this is not referred to in any way.

It is interesting to note that the European Association of Archaeologists is only a partner in this project and has not seen fit to provide an endorsement of the need or requirement for the project. Their letter of intend follows the same template used by all partners.

Although it is acknowledged that such survey work has been undertaken in UK and Ireland the benefit realised from this is not indicated. There is nothing to suggest that the output of the Network – a report, will have impact. Indeed comment is made that many of the partner EU countries have no specific archaeological body overseeing vocational education but the application does not indicate how this project could realise change without these or how it could stimulate the formation of such bodies. Whilst the project would increase knowledge of where archaeology is (at the time of the survey) in the participating countries it is not clear to see how this will achieve a significant impact other than to highlight problems and where more work is needed.

There is nothing to suggest that this Transnational Network will have a wider EU impact (other than in each individual country of the partnership) or have any potential for continuing existence or impact after the project.

The project will contribute to the Lisbon/ Copenhagen Declarations. It addresses objective B and Priority 1 of the programme by promoting the transparency of qualifications, identifying barriers to transnational competitiveness and the means to overcome them.

Data collected will be used to assess whether there are barriers to participation and will therefore address the horizontal theme of equality of opportunity. Social dialogue will be achieved because the partnership contains representative associations and will communicate with employers and government bodies.

### Relevance of results and potential impact

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There are minor changes from pre-proposal. The results are clearly stated, relevant to needs, and are appropriate to the target group and sector. Because of the excellent geographical range of the partner countries and the fact that results are to be published in all partner languages, the results achieve a high level of transnationality. However, further clarification is required concerning what will be translated during the lifetime of the project. It is stated that the final result will be a published report, including recommendations for further research, that will be available online in all partner languages [English, French, Dutch, German, Czech, Greek, Maltese, Slovenian] and in the European Journal of Archaeology – print run = 5000. A summary report in all partner languages will be available online. Other results will include review and recommendations for vocational training techniques, and a review of and recommendations for removing, barriers to labour market entry and transnational mobility.

It is likely that the impact of the results may be reduced due to the promoter removing the activity to translate the materials into Turkish. At pre-proposal stage the assessor commented that further information was required as to why this activity would take place given that there is not a Turkish organisation involved in the partnership. However, at full proposal stage no explanation was provided but the activity has been removed from the proposal.

Short-term and long-term impacts are clearly explained in terms of their impacts on the target groups and sectors. These include, in the short term, the identification of immediate training needs, development of training applications flowing from those needs, identification of barriers to mobility. In the longer term, the project will influence the development and refinement of training strategies, transnationality and transparency of qualifications, and barriers to transnational mobility. It is expected that the project will have impacts beyond its conclusion because it will influence decision-making in the field.

The methodology can be transferred across countries and sectors.

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## Partnership

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There are no changes from pre-proposal. The partnership includes research institutes and universities, European and national professional associations, and relevant government bodies. It contains private and public sector bodies. The roles of each partner in the project are clearly stated.

The partnership has come together through shared interests identified through professional contact within the EAA. A 'hub and spoke' model will be deployed with some independence within each country and the promoter acting as hub. 5 project management meetings have been arranged to take place in the UK, Greece, Slovenia, Belgium, and the Czech Republic.

The European Association of Archaeologists would seem to be ideally placed to help lead and/ or drive a project such as this but their role is limited to some European valorisation of the output - which appears to be a secondary priority, both in terms of detail and budget, to that intended within individual countries. However, its remit is very much about what this project is proposing so one questions why such an organisation is not taking a more significant role in driving and co-ordinating this trans-European networking project. For the network to have any hope of ongoing impact this would appear to be an essential component.

The partnership is extensive and highly related to the sector. As an academic process the partners appear eminently qualified to undertake the work proposed in the work packages. However, the proposal does not indicate the benefits of a Transnational Partnership. It would appear to be a series of surveys being undertaken in 10 countries that will be brought together in a report and which in turn will be presented within each of the countries according to individual valorisation strategies developed within each of the countries. It is difficult to see why there is no transnational valorisation.

Each partner is generally undertaking the same data collection and valorisation role but within their own country only.

It is odd to note that the same level of data collection as in the other partner countries appears to be proposed for both Ireland and the UK. It is reported that data collection has already been undertaken in these areas.

## Work programme

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A feasible work programme is outlined that is suitable for the project's objectives. There are 7 work packages including valorisation and the Quality Management Plan that both run throughout the duration of the project. The duration and balance of the work packages are generally appropriate although it is noted that there are a comparatively small number of days activity during the 11-month duration of Work Package 6, and that the Results presentation package (WP7), which includes making any necessary alterations to the products, lasts only one month.

All partners are involved but the applicant partner has a relatively high workload consisting of 214 days compared to 163 days for the next highest allocation.

An advisory consultant is to be engaged. There is a concern that the consultant is almost taking the role of a partner as it appears that the consultant is involved in 5 out of 7 work packages. The promoter is reminded that subcontracting should be for a cost for a one-off, specific task.

## Evaluation strategy

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Product and project evaluation are carried out throughout the project. Project evaluation will be carried out by an experienced evaluator knowledgeable in the field who will liaise with the project throughout its duration.

## Dissemination strategy

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The network valorisation activity is within individual countries to individual valorisation plans. Valorisation would have been improved had this focused on being truly transnational.

There are changes from pre-proposal. The valorisation strategy runs throughout the project. Feedback from end users will ensure consistency and quality of the project. Sectoral organisations are to be consulted throughout and the project will remain "highly visible". Individual reports from each partner country will be published in the relevant languages. The partnership will enter IPR and exploitation agreements, based on and EQUAL guide, "which will also include arrangements for any commercialisation of products". The applicant could usefully have considered further the sustainability of the project, particularly in terms of the commercialisation of the results and in light of an apparent reliance on grant funding.

Each partner will develop its own valorisation strategy and these will be combined into a flexible project valorisation strategy. Common components will include a project website, publications, presentations, conference workshops.

## Financial Plan

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The total cost in Section D.1 does not validate with the rest of the financial tables.  
The total cost in Section D.1 does not validate with the rest of the financial tables.  
Administrative staff rates are exceeded for Partner No. 6. No justification was provided, so reduce down to the limits.

One partner (EAA) is contributing their own funds at just over 50% - 2609€:2289€. According to table E2.4, all other partners have "national support". However, it may be that there are input errors in the table because the Letters of Intent imply that partner's are contributing their funds.

Costs are not equally distributed across the partnership but are broadly consistent with the work programme. The expenditure for the applicant partner is just over 2x the next highest applicant.

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Travel costs for the applicant partner are 16,665€, the next highest are 6,504€; although there may be valid reasons for this they are not clearly explained in the application. There are no ICT costs. 5,000€ have been allocated to 'Other' without any further explanation.

Costs for German administrators are higher than the profile at 203:193. The provision of justification of the higher costs would have enhanced the application.

## *Innovative aspects and originality*

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Whilst it is clear that this information to be collected does not currently exist, it would have been helpful to link this to the economic impact this has on the sector.

An innovatory aspect of the project is that it is the first to gather data across a range of European countries. Additionally it will develop pan-European strategies as well as strategies within each country. In some states, this type of action has not been carried out before. It will contribute to the EAA's Committee on Education and Training in Archaeology. Methods used for data collection and analysis (developed by the promoter/ project manager and the proposed external evaluator – a Collection, Analysis, Dissemination, Implementation Cycle which has similarities to Kolb's learning cycle) have only been used in the UK before, therefore their implementation in partner states will be novel. The use of the same methods across the project will allow comparisons between countries that have not previously been possible.

The project will produce baseline data in most partner countries, "that will allow the identification and prioritisation of vocational training needs". Where work has been carried out previously, the data "will begin to form a time series dataset".

## *European dimension*

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The EU dimension exists however this is insular within each of the partnership countries. Valorisation and thus any realisation of benefits, will take place within each individual country depending on each individual partner's valorisation plan.

The partnership is geographically wide-ranging and achieves multiplayer characteristics. The partnership represents 10 Member States from the north, south, east, and west of the EU, including recent accession countries.

The project responds to a need identified across Europe and within member states. Methods are transferable to other countries. Dissemination will take place on a Europe-wide basis as well as in partner countries.