



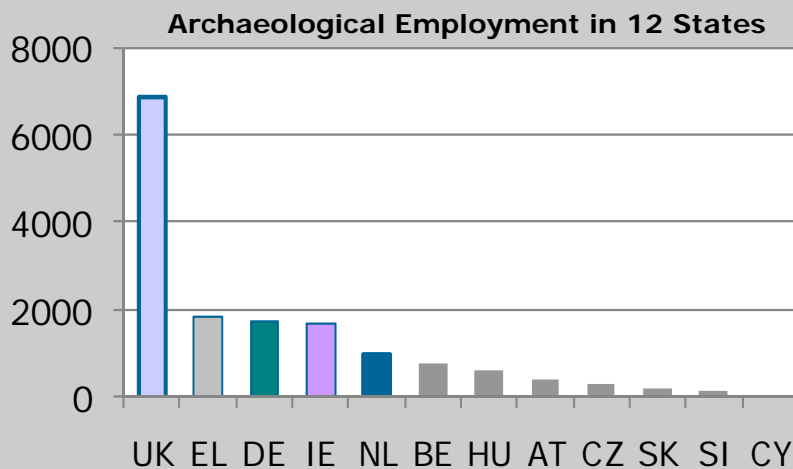
# Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe



## A Transnational Project

Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe is a transnational project, run by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) in the UK and supported by the European Commission's Leonardo da Vinci funding stream, part of the Lifelong Learning Programme. This is looking at archaeological employment across twelve states of the European Union and at the opportunities for archaeologists to move from one country to another to work. The European Association of Archaeologists is an active partner in this project.

Of the twelve countries participating in the project, only in the UK and Ireland has comparable data been previously gathered, and so this is proving to be a new and valuable experience for the archaeological communities in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Greece and Cyprus. Each national partner is producing a report on archaeological employment in their country, which will be available in both English and each country's national languages when the project concludes in September 2008, along with a transnational overview of the situation across Europe.



## Employment in European Archaeology and Mobility and Qualifications

Preliminary results are already proving to be very informative. Put crudely, where there is private sector archaeology, there tends to be more jobs (and many more opportunities to move from country to country); where archaeological practice is heavily state-based, there are less jobs but these are better paid. Ireland, with an active archaeological private sector, has seen a huge boom in archaeological work, with a prime driver being The National Roads Authority's programme of infrastructural development – funded in large part by European Union Objective One monies.

This has meant a significant influx of archaeologists with a remarkable 45% of archaeologists working in the island of Ireland are not from Ireland – by comparison, 9% of archaeologists working in the UK are not from that country.

As the Objective One funds now become focussed on the new member states – the countries that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 – it may be that we are now beginning to see a similar boom in the archaeological professions in those countries which may possibly be achieved while maintaining the social and financial status of archaeologists.

In the future, it is hoped that this project can be repeated on a five year cycle, to start to identify trends over time in separate states and across the continent.

The project will also be looking to involve participants from other countries, whether inside or outside the European Union.

For more details, contact Kenneth Aitchison, Head of Projects and Professional Development at the Institute of Field Archaeologists

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Partner meeting in Leuven



Lifelong Learning Programme

