

ArchTerra, ARENA and others... Participation of Poznań Archeological Museum in European projects (1997-2007)

Summary

During last ten years, Poznań Archeological Museum participated in three international projects, sponsored by the European Communities within the frames of INCO Copernicus and CULTURE 2000 programmes. This paper summarizes their tasks and results.

ArchTerra: extending the European Archaeology Web over Bulgaria, Romania, and Poland, INCO Copernicus programme (1999-2000). The idea of the project was based on two general assumptions: (1) The academic community using computer undergoes a strong and rapidly growing impact of modern information and communication technologies, which creates suitable conditions for remote collaboration of international groups of archaeologists, enabled by the universal character of the archaeological heritage, (2) Unequal state of development of telecommunication infrastructure throughout Europe, where its Central and Eastern part still has no substantial participation in the exchange of information and expertise regarding European archaeology.

The main tasks of the ArchTerra project included: (1) by installing new ArchWeb sites in three Central European countries (Bulgaria, Romania, and Poland) - to establish three gateways to European archaeology, (2) to demonstrate the different ways in which Internet may be used throughout Europe both for professionals and amateurs in the field of archaeology (Web pages, museum databases, live presentations and virtual exhibitions, as well as a unified generic information system for Internet access to relational databases), (3) to strengthen existing scientific relations between the EU and the countries of Central Europe, also by working out solutions for dealing with different

alphabets, creating multilanguage and multicultural thesauri of terms, compiling international heritage legislation),

The major results of the project were: (1) Installation or extending and strengthening of the formerly existing LAN and Internet facilities in three Central European partner countries, (2) Introducing the procedures of digitizing and presenting archaeological materials, (3) Several central and national services, including three new ArchWebs (national nodes for accessing archaeological web resources in Bulgaria, Romania and Poland).

ARENA: Archaeological Records of Europe - Network Access (Extending Online Access and Digital Preservation of European Archaeological Archives), **CULTURE 2000 (2001-2004)**. ARENA has brought together partners from nine European countries in order to develop a framework to protect and promote digital cultural archives of European significance. Each of the partners has a regional or national responsibility for the management of cultural archives and each has existing strengths in aspects of the protection or promotion of digital data. Many of these cultural archives are held on paper, but an increasing amount are held only in electronic format. Over the years, archaeologists have amassed a massive collection of digital excavation data archives, a significant proportion of which remain unpublished. ARENA has provided links between these archives, showing the network of travel, trade, migration, war, and exchange of ideas and technologies in historic and prehistoric times. ARENA has included a number of activities, ie. exchange of experience and the further training of professionals, promoting elements of the heritage concerned including important archaeological texts in digital format, use of new technologies (spatial interfaces), as well as organising projects to teach and disseminate knowledge using Web-based technologies (Dublin Core, Z39.50, SGML/XML).

AREA-ARChives of European Archaeology, phase III, CULTURE 2000 (2001-2004) is a research network dedicated to the history of archaeology, with particular emphasis on the archives of the discipline, their promotion and preservation. Its third phase of activities has the following main objectives: (1) To encourage research on the history of archaeology, (2) To study, catalogue and help preserve the main archives bearing on the memory, achievements and heritage of the discipline, (3) To investigate the interrelations between the development of archaeology and the formation of cultural and political identities. By organising research projects, regular meetings, workshops, publications and its internet site, AREA seeks to enhance understanding of this multifarious field, to address its theoretical and methodological premises, and to highlight its broader contribution to both historical analysis and contemporary practice.