



ARCHAEOLOGY, AUTHORITY & COMMUNITY: cooperation to protect archaeological heritage

This Project joins nine different organizations from three countries: from Estonia: University of Tartu (P1), National Heritage Board (P2) and (Non-Profit Association) Archaeological Centre (P3); from Latvia: Institute of Latvian History at the University of Latvia (P4), Ludza Municipality (P5) and Alūksne Local Municipality (P6); from Russia: Archaeological Centre of Pskov region (P7), Independant non-profit organization «Pskov archaeological Centre» (P8) and Pskov State Historical-Architectural and Art Museum-reserve (P9).

Project Newsletter No. 1

Dear Partners and Friends of the Project!

As you know our Project has been launched successfully on the 1st of May. Since then, we managed to organize two meetings: in Tartu and in Riga and proceed with our planned work duties, events and activities. This letter is a brief overview of our advancements so far. In the following newsletter you will find a summary of some basic points that we have agreed up on in our meetings in Tartu and Riga and some outlines of the things we have done so far.

1.1. The Project Kick-off meeting and the web page seminar took place in Tartu on 10th and 11th of May.

- a) Partner 1 introduced the system of internal communication and monitoring, that everyone agreed on.

- b) The structure of the website was discussed. The website will be accompanied with an easy-to-use internet environment for databases, forms for reporting and Project documents. The Editing board of the website was elected as following: Heiki Valk, Elvira Koroleva and Antonija Vilcane.

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- c) Field work areas were specified for all three countries; it was decided to plan joint inventories to Krasnogorodsk and Ludza areas, and also to Izhorian plateau, if financially possible.
- d) Projects time plan for Year 1 was redone according to later beginning of the project and partners requests. September and March remained as report submission and expenditure verification months.
- e) Steering Group and Steering Committee were organized and elected as following:
 - Steering Group: Heiki Valk, Antonija Vilcane and Elvira Koroleva
 - Steering Committee: P1: Heiki Valk, Maria Smirnova; P2: Helle Solnask, Ingmar Noorlaid; P3: Arvis Kiristaja, Lembi Lõugas; P4: Antonija Vilcane, Guntis Gerhards; P5: Inga Prikule, Milana Bule; P6: Santa Supe, Inita Veismane; P7: Eelena Yakovleva, Marina Kulakova; P8: Olga Volochkova, Ershova Tatiana; P9: Lidia Vorontzova, Elvira Koroleva
- f) During the meeting preparation of Notification Letter nr 1 took place.

1.2. On the 28th and 29th of May Steering Committee meeting & organizational/working meeting of project coordinators took place in Riga. It also included the database discussion.

- a) Responsibilities for organizing the functioning of the Working groups were divided as following:
 - Working group of PR and web-site – P8
 - Working group of booklets (responsible for working out layouts) – P9
 - Working group of field work – P7
 - Working group of databases (archive, monuments) – P1

Estonia – Latvia – Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013 financially supports joint cross border development activities for the improvement of the region's competitiveness by utilising its potential and beneficial location on the crossroads between the EU and Russian Federation. The Programme web-site is www.estlatrus.eu.

- Working group of databases (collections, bibliography) – P9
- b) Partner 1 presented ideas for the website, which were approved by other partners.
- c) During the Database discussion common terminologies for chronological periods, administrative levels and monument sites were elaborated.

2. During the first two months of the duration of the project different activities, from all the five Activity Packages described in the Projects Application, were organized by Partners.

a) Partner 1 organized various mailing lists, such as:

- General mailing list
- Steering Group mailing list
- PR & popularization working group mailing list
- Website working group mailing list
- Database working group mailing list.

It is still up for discussion whether the lists for Booklet working group and Fieldwork working group are needed.

b) The development of the Project website is in progress and the preliminary version should be ready by the end of July.

c) Most of the partners have introduced the aims of the Project in mass media. We also composed the joint press-release which was distributed in the media of all three countries.

d) The fieldwork season started also successfully, as Partners 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 prepared and conducted field inventories.

e) Information days and lectures for the general public were organized by Partners 2 and 6.

f) Estimation of finds in depositories, also procurements for equipment and renewal of storage facilities are being developed by several Partners.

g) The development of popular journal on Archaeology is progressing rapidly in Estonia, as many young archaeologists and archaeology students agreed to write articles and are currently debating over the various name possibilities.

h) Development of databases is also moving and preliminary Excel forms will be soon distributed for discussion and, after final approval by other, for inserting data.

This is not the conclusive list of work and activities that are going on, despite the laziness of Summer, but it's an indication that things are moving and our collective Project has started and is doing fine.

For more detailed information on these or any other topics, please see Meeting notes from Tartu and Riga or contact me via e-mail or phone.

With kind regards,

The 1st of July 2012

Maria Smirnova

Project manager

ELRI-191 AAC

University of Tartu

maira.smirnova@ut.ee

+372 53426644