

# Introducing STARC: Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center

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# STARC

# The Cyprus Institute

The Cyprus Institute (2005) is an not-for-profit, independent educational and research institution based on interdisciplinarity and an issue-based approach to research (as opposed to the traditional, academic discipline-based one)

At the Cyprus Institute, activity is organized in Research Centers:

- Energy, Environment and Water - **EEWRC**
- Science and Technology in Archaeology - **STARC**
- Computation-based Science and Technology - **CaSToRC**

# STARC

- The Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Centre – STARC (2007), is devoted to the development, introduction and use of advanced scientific technologies in the domains of CH.
- The geographical focus of STARC is Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean / Middle East region.
- STARC is open for collaborations and joint activities with archaeological research teams and heritage professionals, based on distinct but converging research goals.



# Institutional Partnerships

- Municipalities of Pafos and Geroskipou
  - MoU on the provision of facilities, infrastructure and local support
- ARU (Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus)
  - Scientific Collaboration
- C2RMF (Center for Research and Restoration of Museums of France)
  - MoU on Scientific Collaboration

# International Collaborations

- University of Illinois, USA
- Penn State University, USA
- MIT, USA
- Ministry of Culture, Italy
- Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel
- ...

# The Topics

The scientific themes on STARC research agenda relate to the basic mission of the Center, and currently are:

- Material and Natural Sciences Applications
  - Archaeometallurgy
  - Bioarchaeology
  - Digital Heritage
- Heritage Documentation and Semantics
  - Archaeological records
  - Data acquisition (2D-3D) and management
  - GIS and remote sensing
  - Standards and digital libraries
- Visualization and Heritage Communication
  - Underwater Archaeology Technology
  - Diagnostic Analyses for Conservation and Preservation

# Our People

**Franco Niccolucci:** Professor, Chair of the Governing Board of STARC. Mathematician. Research interests: Cultural data organization and semantics.

**Sorin Hermon:** Research Coordinator. Archaeologist. Research interests: Visualization methods, communication of Cultural Heritage, Prehistory of the Levant

**Kirsi Lorentz:** Research Coordinator. Archaeologist. Research interests: Archaeological Sciences, Physical Anthropology, Bioarchaeology

**Denis Pitzalis:** Researcher. Computer scientist. Research interests: 2D-3D data acquisition and analysis, data organization

**Nikolas Bakirtzis:** Researcher. Art and Architecture historian. Research interests: Medieval architecture and archaeology

**Loukas Kalisperis, Marinos Ioannides:** Professors with joint or part-time appointments



# Our Approach

- COLLABORATION, not competition
- ENHANCEMENT, not overlap
- OPENNESS, not insulation
- REGIONAL, not (only) Cyprus specific
- FOCUSED, not generic
- INTERDISCIPLINARY CO-OPERATION, not services



# Research Activities

- Funded projects
  - EU
  - National
  - Private
- Self-funded and co-funded projects
- Outreach initiatives
- Publications

# The Projects

- Funded research
  - EU-funded projects on digital libraries
    - EDLocal: standards for digital content
    - ATHENA: standards for digitizing museum collections
  - EU-funded action on research infrastructure
    - STACHEM: survey of research infrastructures on archaeological sciences, digital heritage and underwater archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean
  - Marie-Curie grant
    - TIEM: IT-enabled survey of Medieval Architecture in Cyprus and the Aegean Islands in the light of contemporary written sources
  - EU-funded project on 3D visualization for CH
    - 3D-COFORM: collections of 3D digital replicas of cultural objects
  - RPF: STAR-LAB, a mobile laboratory

Thank you!

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