



ARCHAEOLOGY, AUTHORITY & COMMUNITY: cooperation to protect archaeological heritage

AAC

Priority 2 Common challenges

Measure 2.2 Preservation and promotion of cultural and historical heritage and support of local traditional skills





Short summary of the project

The project focuses on the preservation of archaeological heritage in the cross-border region, on developing cross-border cooperation in this field and on raising awareness of people about cultural / archaeological heritage.

The state of preservation of archaeological monuments has greatly worsened in recent times, reaching critical level. The greatest damage makers are economic activities and illegal excavations related to treasure-hunting (with metal detectors). A big problem is the depopulation of rural areas: the old generation who knows archaeological sites disappears quickly and young people leave the countryside. Many sites which cannot be visually identified on the landscape (graves, cemeteries, sacred natural places) will be forgotten, if their location is not recorded on maps. Therefore it is necessary to take urgent measures for saving the common archaeological heritage of the Baltic Sea Region.

The preservation of historical and cultural heritage is particularly complicated today due to the limited availability of financial and human resources. The notion of "historical and cultural heritage" includes a wide range of objects: monuments of history, architecture, archaeology, nature, etc. It is necessary to develop separate comprehensive programs of preservation for all kinds of monuments, according to their peculiarities. Archaeological data is the main source about the history of the Baltic Sea Region for early periods when written sources are scanty or totally missing.

Overall objective

Preservation of common cultural heritage in the cross-border region. Archaeological monuments, as part of the cultural heritage, are not only historical objects but they are also a part of nature and cultural landscapes. Archaeological heritage is an important component of historical and cultural landscapes, which are the habitat for the contemporary people.

Specific objective

- ✚ Preservation of common archaeological heritage
- ✚ Developing cross-border cooperation in the field of its protection
- ✚ Raising the awareness of people about it

Beneficiary

University of Tartu (Estonia)

Partners

National Heritage Board (Estonia)

(Non-Profit Association) Archaeological Centre (Estonia)

Institute of Latvian History (Latvia)

Ludza Municipality (Latvia)

Alūksne Municipality (Latvia)

Archaeological Centre of Pskov Region (Russia)

Independent non-profit organization "Pskov archaeological Centre" (Russia)

Pskov State Historical-Architectural and Art Museum-reserve (Russia)





Expected results

- ✚ In total ca. **90 people** get experience, how to **find monuments** in the landscape;
- ✚ Ca. **800-1000 monuments found/visited** during field inventories and presented to authorities. The finding of monuments saves them for tourism, and as future research objects;
- ✚ The databases of sites used in further planning. **Database** and **maps of archaeological sites** presented to municipalities and heritage protection units.
- ✚ **Rescue excavations** will take place on ca. **10 damaged or threatened objects** (Est: 3-4; Lat: 3; Rus: 3);
- ✚ **Improving the conservation facilities** is a key issue in the development of the Network in Pskov. It makes a firm basis for the conservation of finds gained from the rescue excavations in Pskov and enables to preserve them. It becomes possible to increase the conservation capacity to ca. **1000 items per year for metal finds**, and to **40 for organic** (textile and leather) finds in the partners' laboratories;
- ✚ The **work conditions** will be improved for 3 people **in Pskov** and for 3 **in Aluksne**. 3 conservators in Pskov get the possibility to use **modern equipment**;
- ✚ The project creates **new cross-border contacts** in a network that involves in its activities ca. 80 persons (Est: 40; Lat: 20 Rus: 20) and 12 institutions. Within the project **18 people**, mostly young archaeologists get (half- or full-time) **team-member employment**: 8 in Pskov; 6 in Tartu, 4 in Riga. In case of successful activities there is hope to make these jobs permanent later.

Final beneficiaries

- ✚ **Public authorities** responsible for heritage conservation: the National Heritage Boards (of Estonia and Latvia) and State Committee for culture of Pskov region (Russia).
- ✚ The population of border-related areas, including the towns of Pskov and Tartu, is ca. 250 000 people but when considering that media and internet are available everywhere, the total number of people involved might be ca. 1 million in Latvia, 1 million in Estonia and ca. 680 000 people in Pskov region.

Duration

32 months

Budget

Total budget: 1 714 515, 66 EUR

Programme co-financing: 1 520 731, 16 EUR (88.7%)

Project co-financing: 193 784, 50 EUR (11.3%)

Contact Person

Mr Heiki Valk

heiki.valk@ut.ee / + 372 737 5653

