

STARC

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH CENTER

## Contact Information

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STARC



## Overview

The Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center (STARC) is devoted to the development, introduction, and use of advanced science and technologies in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. Its research activities have a strong multi-disciplinary approach, through collaboration agreements and joint activities with leading institutions in the region, and synergies with other Centers of the Cyprus Institute (Cyl), towards the enhancement of knowledge regarding the Cultural Heritage (CH) of the region, through new ways of reasoning with information technologies, natural and material sciences.

Although the Center has not been formally launched, STARC is actively involved in various research activities.

## Research

The research agenda of STARC will evolve around four themes, which derive from a use-inspired basic research approach:

- Natural and Material Sciences applied to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (CH);
- Digital Heritage (DH); Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), digital documentation and semantics, scientific visualization and virtual reality methods;
- Diagnostics for CH conservation, such as chemical and physical analyses for the preservation of heritage items;
- Underwater archaeology technology.

STARC is actively involved in the coordination and participation of various European research projects and initiatives, some of which are listed below:

### Project Name: Making local and regional content accessible through the European Digital Library

- Acronym: EDLocal
- Funding scheme: eContentplus
- Funding period: 3 years
- Starting date: June 2008
- Coordinator: Sogn og Fjordane (NO) and MDR partners (UK)
- Role of STARC: regional content coordinator

#### Synopsis

EDLocal is a proposal that aims to establish a Best Practice Network to improve the interoperability of the digital content held by regional and local institutions, and to make it accessible through the European Digital Library (EDL)

### Project Name: Access to cultural heritage networks across Europe

- Acronym: ATHENA
- Funding scheme: eContentplus
- Funding period: 2 years
- Starting date: October 2008
- Coordinator: Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali (IT)

- Role of STARC: content provider

#### Synopsis

ATHENA has been developed to specifically tackle the gap in the existing content provision to the European Digital Library (Europeana).

### Project Name: Science and Technology for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean

- Acronym: STACHEM
- Funding scheme: Capacities: research infrastructures
- Funding period: 18 months
- Starting date: November 2008
- Coordinator: CREF-Cyl (CY)
- Role of STARC: project coordination; management, dissemination and outreach

#### Synopsis

STACHEM will contribute in developing a regional strategic plan for research infrastructures devoted to archaeological sciences and digital heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean

### Project Name: Threshold of Integration in Eastern Mediterranean

- Acronym: TIEM
- Funding Scheme: Marie-Curie reintegration grant
- Funding period: 24 months
- Starting date: November 2008
- Coordinator: CREF-Cyl (CY)
- Role of STARC: project coordination

#### Synopsis

TIEM is a grant which will be used to carry out an extensive survey of Medieval Architecture in Cyprus and various Greek islands, in conjunction to documenting it in the light of written sources of the same period.

### Project Name: 3D Collection Formation

- Acronym: 3D-CoForm
- Funding Scheme: FP7-IST
- Funding period: 48 months
- Starting date: December 2008
- Coordinator: University of Brighton (UK)
- Role of STARC: coordination of dissemination and training; regional content provider

#### Synopsis

3D-COFORM will advance the state-of-the-art in 3D-digitisation and make 3D-documentation an everyday practical choice for digital documentation campaigns in the Cultural Heritage sector.

## STARC Scientific Advisory Committee

A Scientific Advisory Committee has been formed to provide scientific supervision and guidance to the Center. The leadership of the Committee is:

#### Demetrios Michaelides

*Professor*

Archaeological Research Unit, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus

#### Jean-Pierre Mohen

*Director*

Quai Branly Museum

#### Heather N. Lechtman

*Professor*

Head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Program in Archaeology and Archaeological Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## Partnerships

STARC has a number of collaborations with national and international research, administrative and public institutions.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the **Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF)** for scientific and educational collaboration, particularly in the field of material sciences applied to Cultural Heritage and Archeometallurgy.

Collaboration has been established with the Archaeological Research Unit (**ARU**) of the **University of Cyprus**. Professor Demetrios Michaelides, Head of the ARU, is also a member of the STARC Interim Governing Board.

Collaboration with the **Italian Ministry of Culture** in the field of digital libraries has started with an exchange of letters stating a mutual declaration of interest. This partnership has led to the invitation to join an EU proposal that has been approved by the European Commission.

## Outreach activities

STARC recognizes the need to dispense its scientific results to various communities of use and, as such, will promote the dissemination of its results for the creation of a modern knowledge – based society, through various outreach activities.

## Our People

STARC aims to create an interdisciplinary research environment, based on the principles of knowledge exchange between disciplines. As such, its international team benefits from the expertise of researchers in social sciences and humanities, natural and material sciences and computer sciences.

Our current team is composed of:

#### Prof. Franco Niccolucci

*Professor/Chair of the Interim Government Board*  
Semantics, digital libraries, 3D visualization

#### Prof. Loukas Kalisperis

*Professor*

Virtual environments, digital visualization, modelisation, energy systems simulation

#### Dr. Sorin Hermon

*Research Coordinator*

Digital Heritage, knowledge management and transfer, cognitive technologies

#### Dr. Kirsi Lorentz

*Research Coordinator*

Human bioarchaeology, archaeological sciences, archaeometry

#### Dr. Marinos Ioannides

*Research Scientist*

Computer sciences, photogrammetry, 3D modeling

#### Denis Pitzalis

*Researcher in Archaeological Science*

Computer sciences applied to Cultural Heritage, digital imaging, 3D, semantics, digital libraries

#### Dr. Nikolas Bakirtzis

*Marie-Curie Research Fellow*

Byzantine and medieval architecture and archeology.