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Designing a Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: the MedSTACH Project

Ph. Kyriakidis¹, Apostolos Sarris², V. Lysandrou¹ and A. Agapiou¹

¹ *Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics, Cyprus University of Technology,
Saripolou Str. 2-8, 3036 Lemesos, Cyprus*

² *Laboratory of Geophysical – Satellite Remote Sensing & Archaeo-environment of
IMS-F.O.R.T.H., Rethymno, Crete, Greece*

email: phaedon.kyriakidis@cut.ac.cy

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Introduction

Project MedSTACH aims to establish Cyprus as an excellence hub in archaeology and cultural heritage, capitalising on research specialisation and technological innovation. To this end, key local public academic institutions and national policy makers/stakeholders are teaming up with leading international institutions to lay the groundwork towards creating the Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, acronym MedSTACH.

The MedSTACH proposal was ranked first (attaining full marks 15/15, “Excellent”) at a pan-European scale, among 208 proposals submitted to the “WIDESPREAD-04-2017” Teaming Phase 1 call. MedSTACH has been awarded 0.4 million euros for a period of one year in order to develop a business plan for the envisaged Centre that will be submitted for evaluation in the Teaming Phase 2 call. If successful in Phase 2, MedSTACH will be awarded 15 million euros from the Horizon2020 framework for a period of 5-7 years, as well as an equal amount of national co-funding, given relevant prerequisites and conditions, for a period of up to 15 years.



MedSTACH' s Research

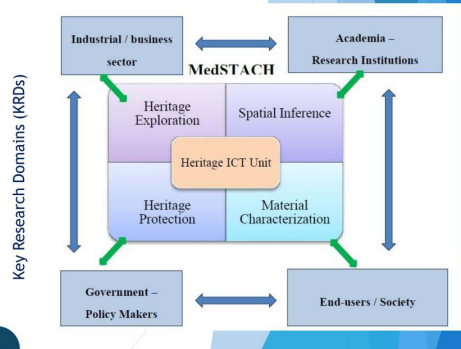
MedSTACH aims to advance - via smart specialisation -- archaeology and cultural heritage research in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region, and ultimately become a point of reference in the region and Europe. MedSTACH seeks to foster multidisciplinary research and training activities, modernise research culture, and become a leading provider of geospatial and related services in support of archaeological research and education in the region. The main activities of the proposed Centre in relation to its research thematic priorities are encapsulated in the following Key Research Domains (KRDs), covering multiple facets of archaeological inquiry and CH priorities:

- I. Heritage Exploration
- II. Spatial Analysis/Inference
- III. Heritage Protection
- IV. Material Characterization

These KRDs will be constantly supported by the Heritage Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Unit, which will constitute the technical backbone for the Centre, both in terms of data used for conducting research, as well as in terms of services and products for the scientific community and broader public (e.g. digital archiving and database management, ontologies and metadata creation, web services).

MedSTACH' s Objectives

- design a multidisciplinary science, engineering and technology Centre of Excellence for archaeology and CH in the Eastern Mediterranean region, based in Cyprus and addressing the priorities for the island's sustainable economic growth as specified by the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus,
- strengthen research collaboration by teaming existing capabilities of the two largest public Universities of Cyprus, as well as key national stakeholders in CH management and tourism policy-making from the Cyprus (the widening country), with leading international institutions in the field of CH,
- establish collaborations with (a) potential innovation clusters from the private sector / industry, and (b) relevant existing research centres, regional stakeholders, academic institutions from Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean region and beyond,
- identify local research gaps and organizational barriers that hitherto have hampered the study, understanding and safeguarding of CH in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region, and develop a roadmap to overcome them,
- disseminate and promote the Centre's activities to the scientific community (academia and industry) and the broader public, locally and abroad.



The MedSTACH consortium constitutes a first-ever established alliance of this scale in Cyprus for archaeology and cultural heritage, both in terms of the number and diversity of partners involved as well as the duration of their engagement in such a long-term joint venture.

Consortium

The MedSTACH consortium includes the Cyprus University of Technology as lead partner, the University of Cyprus, as well as the key national stakeholders and policy makers of the island responsible for CH management, the Department of Antiquities, and for the promotion of Cyprus's touristic product, the Cyprus Tourism Organization. The Cypriot institutions join forces towards sustainable research and innovation excellence with two renowned institutions, ranked among the region's and world's leaders in the field of archaeology and CH research and education: the University College London (UCL) and the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH)



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find more here
www.medstach.eu

