

***ARS NAUTICA – Seafaring through the Ages, Summer School Workshop on Nautical Heritage of the Mediterranean.***

*A post-graduate workshop examining the challenges related to the research, protection and valorisation of the maritime and nautical heritage of the Mediterranean*

Forty participants including experts, advanced MA students, PhD candidates and post-doctoral early career researchers, from twelve countries<sup>1</sup> and thirteen nationalities<sup>2</sup>, took part in a workshop ‘*ARS NAUTICA – Seafaring through the Ages, Summer School Workshop on Nautical Heritage of the Mediterranean*’ from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 organized by Giulia Boetto, senior researcher at CNRS (Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, Min Culture & Comm, CCJ, Aix-en-Provence) and Irena Radić Rossi, associate professor at the Department of Archaeology of the University of Zadar.

The workshop took place in the prestigious Inter-University Centre of Dubrovnik (IUC, <http://www.iuc.hr>), an independent institution for advanced studies run by an international consortium of universities. The workshop marked Aix-Marseille University joining the consortium, the first French university among the 170 members!

Organized within the frameworks of ‘*LabexMed—Human and social sciences at the heart of interdisciplinarity for the Mediterranean*’ (10-LABX-0090, <http://labexmed.mmsch.univ-aix.fr/>) and the ‘*AdriaS—Adriatic Shipbuilding and Seafaring*’ (IP-2014-09-8211, <http://www.adriaproject.org>) project, this post-graduate workshop was supported by the French government under the ‘*Programme Investissements d’Avenir, Initiative d’Excellence d’Aix-Marseille Université—A\*MIDEX*’, and by the Croatian Science Foundation (HZZ, <http://www.hrzz.hr>).

The summer school was also supported by the UNESCO Chair in Maritime and Coastal Archaeology and the ‘*MoMarch - Master of Maritime and Coastal Archaeology*’ programme of the Aix-Marseille University excellence Academy A\*MIDEX (<http://momarch.hypotheses.org>).

The French School of Rome (Efr, <http://www.efrome.it>), the Department of Underwater Archaeological Researches (Drassm), the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE, <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr>) through its program ‘*ADRIBOATS—Ships and navigation in Eastern Adriatic*’, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia (MZOS, <https://mzo.hr>), the Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences (HAZU, <http://knjiznica.hazu.hr>) and the Inter-University Centre also contributed to the success of this training initiative.

Twenty specialists working in the field of Nautical Archaeology from Antiquity to the Post-Medieval period shared their reflections on new research perspectives in this discipline, including issues related to the conservation and valorisation of ships as providing evidence of the material culture and the technological achievements of a given society.

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<sup>1</sup> China, Croatia, Spain, USA, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, UK.

<sup>2</sup> American, British, Croatian, Danish, Spanish, French, Irish, Italian, Maltese, Dutch, Russian, Serb and Venezuelan.

### **An intensive week of discussion**

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, after visiting Dubrovnik's historic centre, participants were welcomed at the IUC classroom by the organizers of the summer school and by Patrice Pomey, Emeritus Research Director at the CNRS (Aix-Marseille Univ, CNRS, Min Culture & Comm, CCJ, Aix-en-Provence). Then, Josip Belamarić, Director of the Institute of Art History - Cvito Fisković Center in Split (<https://www.ipu.hr/>), presented a paper on the phenomenon of villas and *villeggiatura* in Dubrovnik during the Renaissance. The day ended with a welcome reception in the presence of the Deputy Director General of the IUC, Wieger Bakker (University of Utrecht), the Chair of the Executive Committee, Gunn Elisabeth Birkelund (University of Oslo), and the Executive Secretary, Nada Bruer Ljubišić.

From Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June, fifteen papers were presented by invited experts structured in a series of sessions according to four main themes:

1. The ship and its environment: technology and navigational space;
2. Valorisation of nautical heritage;
3. The ship as a reflection of a society;
4. Nautical Archaeology and Ethnography in the digital era.

Eighteen presentations were also given by the young researchers in dedicated sessions. On Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, the participants visited the Maritime Museum of Dubrovnik accompanied by Đivo Bašić, then went to Cavtat for a dive on one of the many antique and modern wreck sites of the bay. The only downside of the day was the weather, which brought strong wind and waves! This prevented participants diving as planned on one of the archaeological sites. Nevertheless, the participants were able to dive in a more sheltered area thanks to the logistical support of the diving club Epiraurum. On the last day, Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, Domagoj Perkić, curator at the Archaeological Museum of Dubrovnik, and Irena Radić Rossi presented an archaeological and historical panorama of Dubrovnik and its region to close the post-graduate workshop.

In conclusion, the *'Ars Nautica—Seafaring through the Ages, Summer School Workshop on Nautical Heritage of the Mediterranean'* provided the opportunity for the large number of participants to compare experiences and to consider diverse research perspectives in a wide range of chronological and geographical settings. It also allowed open exchange and dialogue between specialists and young researchers on concepts of nautical heritage and its role in contemporary society.

Finally, the summer school helped to reinforce the international collaboration established between France and Croatia for underwater archaeological excavations. Such projects have already trained a large number of students and PhD candidates from Croatia, France, and elsewhere, through the transfer of fieldwork skills and best practice. The summer school in Dubrovnik, however, has undoubtedly contributed to establishing a theoretical framework necessary for the sustainable development of maritime and nautical archaeology among the new generation working in the Mediterranean, while forming new networks of researchers—a firm foundation for future research programmes.

For more information:

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