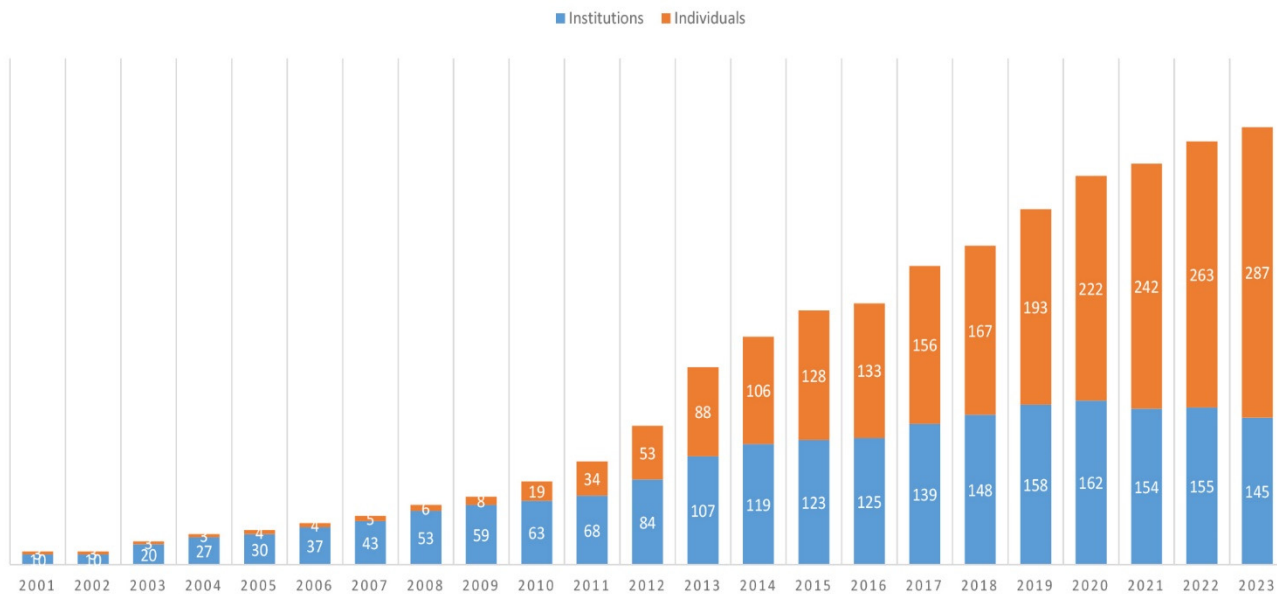


EXARC Summing up 2023:

EXARC MEMBERS



Members

EXARC got **66 new members** (6 institutional and 60 individual). This is the largest amount ever (in 2013 we had 65 new members). We also **lost 53 members**, of which 21 had not paid already in 2022.

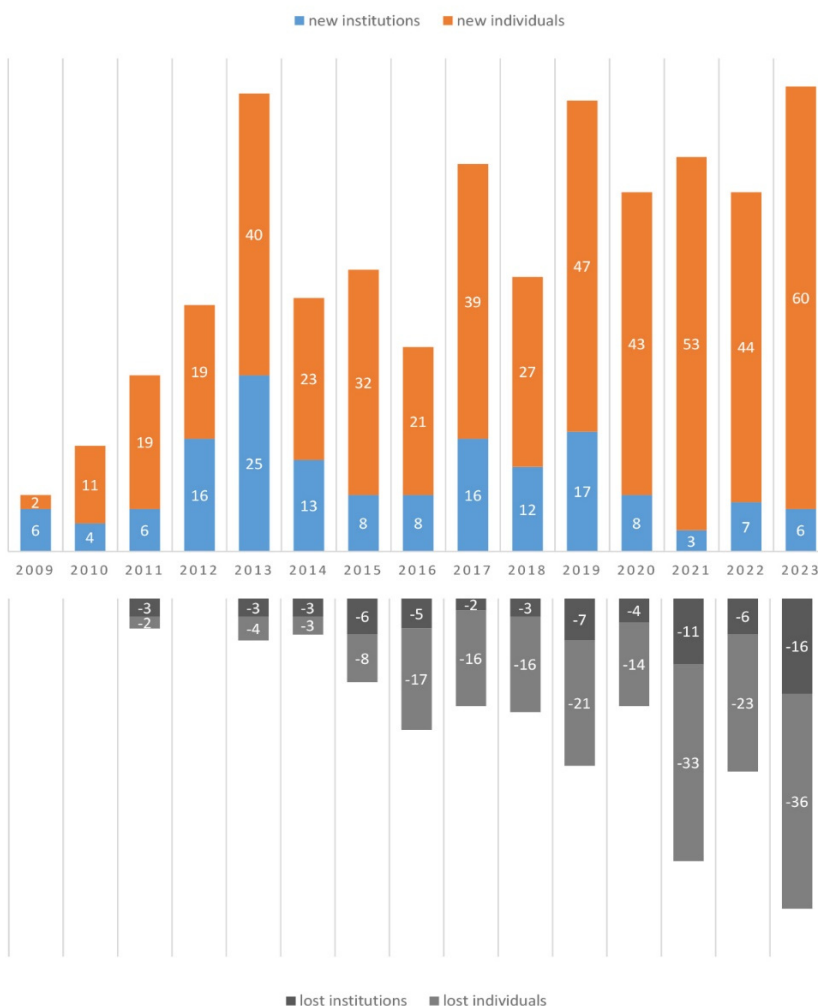
By the end of 2023, EXARC had **432 members**. As for the past 10 years, we gained more individual members than institutional.

There are **16 members whose fees are due** (total amount due € 1.260).

Our average yearly growth is between 15 and 20 members, which is not as fast as we would like, but very understandable if we consider how difficult the last 3 years were (2020-2023). In the years before we grew between 20 and 40 members a year.

We hope that with the changes in the EXARC team from 2024 and with a new approach, we can interest more people to become our member.

As in 2022 Ukrainian members can join EXARC free of charge.



Income / Expenses

Of the 2023 revenues, **€ 37,110 was paid**. We sent credit notes for 2022 for € 1,875, so the total confirmed income is € 35.295. **Still open is € 1,260** (from the 16 members mentioned above). Total booked in is € 36.555. We sent invoices in January, reminders in April, and again in September and November. Almost 50% of the fees was paid by the end of February (it has been 50-55% for some years now), by the end of June we received another 20% (again following the trend of the last 5 years). The last 25% are the most difficult to get.

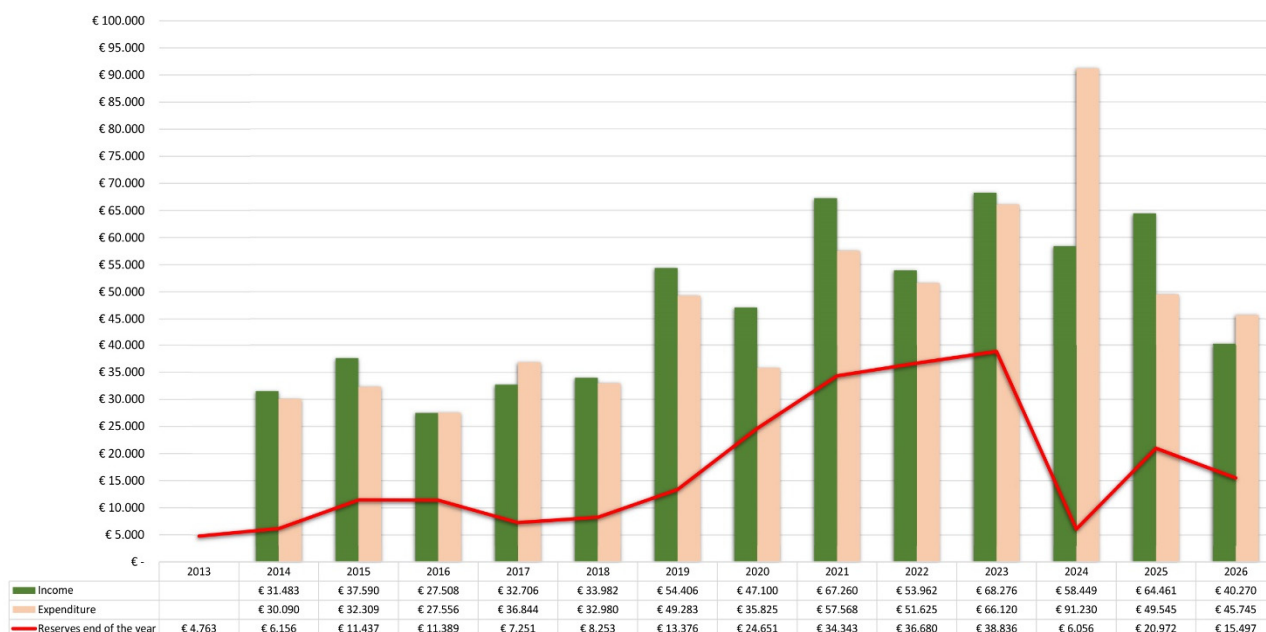
2023 was the third year we fully worked on both the **RETOLD** project (an EU project with 6 partners, EXARC is lead partner), and a Dutch Research Council NWO project with the University of Leiden (**Putting Life into Late Neolithic Houses**). Both projects brought in respectively **€ 12,500** and **€ 3,200**. Which has been used for the hours, travels and products delivered.

Another source of income was the **EAC13 conference in Toruń, Poland**. This was one of the most complicated events we ever organized from the financial point of view: 1. four currencies, 2. conference in Torun with participants paying fee, 3. conference online with sponsors paying for the hours (70% covered by sponsors, 30% paid by EXARC), 4. The SUN delegation from Ukraine coming over, and three different sponsor organizations paying for their costs (with all the income and expenses going through EXARC), 5. volunteers on the spot and online. We received roughly **€ 14,000** (including sales) and we spent about **€ 12,000**. The difference was used for the EXARC office.

Many regular annual expenses went up by 10-20% due to inflation just like in 2022. That counts for our accountant as well as our printer and (RETOLD) travels. The office costs are also higher. We cancelled our office from January 2024, and got the deposit back in December 2023.

We closed 2023 with a **positive balance of € 2,155**. **Our reserves grew to € 38,836**. That is more than anticipated, but due to moving some RETOLD expenses from 2023 to 2024 we saved money in 2023, which will need to be spent in 2024. Our reserves will go down with € 30,000 in 2024, and only in 2025, after receiving the final grant from RETOLD and NWO we will come again above € 20,000.

EXARC RESERVES - INCOME - EXPENSES



Cooperation

EXARC is partner in two cooperation projects: **RETOLD** is the project we are lead partner of. With 5 other members we work on documentation strategies for open-air museums. In 2021 due to Covid all communication was online, in 2022 we met in Barcelona, at UAB. In 2023 we met 3 times, in Sibiu (Romania), in Berlin (Germany) and Albersdorf (Germany). The project proceeded as planned, however with some delays. We hope to finish all as planned, and have the final conference in September 2024 in Lelystad (the Netherlands)

The **NWO project (Putting Life into late Neolithic Houses)** is also challenging, as the lead partner was unavailable for a longer period, and the project stood still. We hope to catch up with our responsibilities in 2024.

In 2021 we introduced the **Experimental Archaeology Award**, sponsored by EXARC Member John Kiernan. It has been a success since, with 2 winners in 2023: **Team 1:** Javier Cámara Manzaneda, Xavier Clop Garcia, Ariadna Benavides (Spain) and **Team 2:** Elizabeth G. Tarulis, Brigid M. Ogden, Taylor R. Bowden (USA)

The **NEMO** European Museum Conference 2023: and... ACTION! Museums in the climate crisis took place in Lahti, Finland. Almost 300 museum professionals from all over Europe took part, listening, discussing, and being inspired by a variety of formats and speakers. EXARC's Vice-Chair, Dr Julia Heeb from Stadtmuseum Berlin, was present.

EXARC is proud to cooperate with America's largest outdoor living history museum, **Colonial Williamsburg**, in an annual fellowship offer. After 3 years break in 2023 we opened the fellowship again with a winner, Maryland-based historical artisan Lauren Muney of "Silhouettes By Hand".

As in the previous years we were also involved with the **European Archaeology Days** which are coordinated by INRAP. Cooperation goes well, partly thanks to a dedicated volunteer who speaks both French and English, and a small team around her.

We also were linked to two organizations: **ALHFAM**, the Association of Living History, Farming and Agriculture Museums and another group called **AIMA**, which is the International Association of Agricultural Museums. We are discussing how our cooperation can improve in the next years.

EXARC has teamed up with the YEAR Centre (York Experimental Archaeological Research, UK) and Ukraine based ancient craft expert and EXARC member Yarema Ivantsiv - to create a **Support Ukraine Network (SUN)** which will provide mentorship and resources for colleagues in Ukraine. SUN joined the EXARC meeting in Toruń, Poland. We are also helping them with writing small funding applications.

Staff & Volunteers

At the end of 2022 our office manager left. Magda Zielinska and Roeland Paardekooper both took up their role again of running EXARC. Mid 2023 also our volunteer bookkeeper left after almost two years. At the end of 2023 our director stepped down and **Matilda Siebrecht** took over. Several new volunteers joined for social media. Otherwise, our team remained stable.

We paid a volunteer fee (reimbursement, according to Dutch law) to 9 regular volunteers in 2023 as well as 14 project volunteers for the EAC13 Conference. We also paid for running the EXARC administration / PR and RETOLD administration.

Conferences, Seminars

In May 2023 EXARC met at the **Nikolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland** for the Experimental Archaeology Conference **#EAC13**. It was EXARC's first fully hybrid meeting. Using the experience and technology from the EAC World Tour, the previous conference in 2021, EXARC was able to include international speakers who would otherwise be unable to participate in the conference. Unlike other hybrid conferences that have remote speakers present their work via Zoom or other service, participants at EAC13 provided videos of their presentations that were loaded onto EXARC's YouTube channel and broadcast during the conference.

In September 2023 several members organized an EXARC session at the **EAA Conference in Belfast (UK)**. It was very well received, partly because the organizers were "determined to make it a great one for the delegates who signed up to share their work, with free EXARC Digests and biscuits from Belfast's finest small home bakery."

Our online initiatives in 2023 were mainly related to the 9 **podcasts**. The idea behind is to team two specialists in a certain field (preferably at least one EXARC member) and discuss with them the current state. All this is open access and volunteer driven.

PR, Journal & Websites

Our website received about **25% more visits** than in 2022. Over half of the visitors read the Journal (about 220,000 pageviews) where we published **56 articles** last year. We intend to update the EXARC website in 2024 so we better accommodate both the journal readers and other users of the website. We unfortunately did not have a possibility to redo parts of the website, as planned in 2022-2023, due to extra work in other areas. The plan is now to keep the Journal at the Drupal based website but move the rest to a WIX based website. This is an important task to our new director.

We published the 2023 **EXARC Journal Digest**, counting 108 pages, full colour, in a circulation of 750, with one paid advert. The Digest has a great variety in reviewed articles (**15 articles**), mixed with many book and conference reviews, as well as interviews and discussion (**15 articles**). We sent the journal to our members, but use it as well at conferences and for PR.

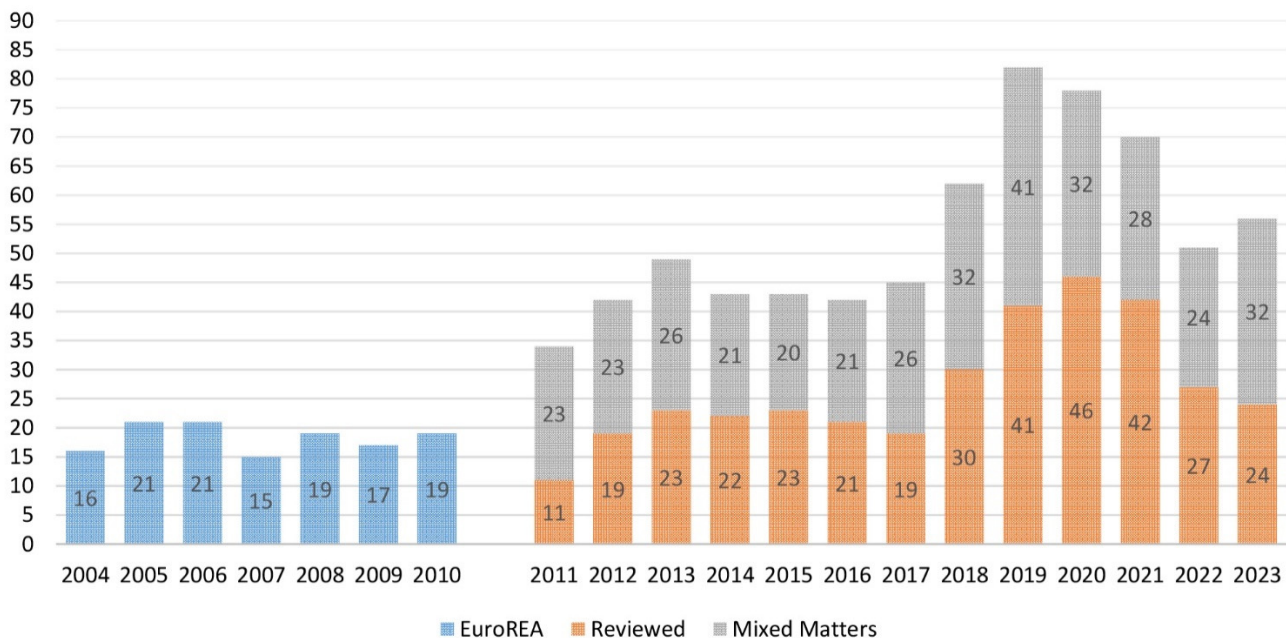
During the conference in Toruń, Poland, EXARC donated 190 printed **EXARC Journal Digest** to Ukrainian colleagues to share within Ukraine. Our volunteers who helped during the meeting also received extra copies.

The four online Journal issues featured 56 articles. The issues were published in March, June, August, and December. In the COVID years we saw less manuscripts coming in, but this has now changed for the better.

With the help of our member Silje Bentsen, we made another effort to register the EXARC Journal in the **Web of Science** and sent all corrected info in August 2023. We hope to have a reply in early 2024.

The Events calendar is growing again after 2 years of stagnation due to COVID, however with the new website we need to evaluate in which form it will return in 2024-2025.

EXARC EUROREA AND JOURNAL



We sent 13 e-mail newsletters to our members, informing them about our conferences, the EXARC Journals, news from members and what EXARC does in general. The Newsletters are all available online. On average over **45% of the newsletters are opened, in the last half year even more than 50%**. According to Campaign Monitor, a healthy email open rate can be anything from 20% - 40%.

Social Media

EXARCs social media reach (think of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) is stable, but **we never had so many views on YouTube (61,629 views)**, thanks to our conferences. Also, our **podcasts** have increased substantially: **growing to 2,957 downloads in 2023** (2,427 downloads in 2022, 1,360 in 2021 and 981 in 2020). That next to YouTube views of the podcast totalling 5,890 over the years 2020-2023.

The number of subscribers on YouTube grew from 2,100 to 2,797. Instagram grew with 400 followers to about 3,500. Overall, we have 45,759 subscribers on our social media.

Office

The **office space** we rented from early 2020 on was not used much. Looking at the changes in the EXARC team, it was decided to move EXARC to another location in the Netherlands and close the physical office. We packed the office in the second part of November, and all material was sent to Germany. The new address is with our member in Lelystad, Batavialand.

May 2023 discussion started between the board and the EXARC secretariat about the future of EXARC. It was then decided to ask Matilda Siebrecht to become the new EXARC Director. In September a meeting took place over several days in Hannover, Germany. A number of Board members were present, just like the Secretariat, and a few volunteers including our future director. A plan was subsequently presented to the Board in October following on which steps were taken.

In 2023 many hours were made by volunteers and staff. For our monthly podcasts, as well as the EAC13 conference, and journal / website / PR. We estimate that altogether, this equals 4-5 FTE.

The 2022 Year Report and the accountant's report were prepared by the Secretariat and the accountant, discussed with the EXARC Treasurer, and reviewed and approved by the EXARC auditors (Anita Radini and Andrea Mariani). At the AGM, members unanimously agreed with the Year Report. The 2023 EXARC AGM took place by e-mail and took about four weeks.

There were no in-person EXARC Board meetings this year, but several meetings with members of the Board and the Secretariat took place, for example in Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands.