

EXARC Meeting in Denmark

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EXARC, the international association of archaeological open air museums held its annual general meeting at the Medieval Centre in Nykøbing, Denmark. EXARC has now over 50 members in almost every country of Europe. EXARC is also the publisher of this magazine, EuroREA. For more information on the association, please visit www.exarc.eu.

Even though there are simply too many meetings around Europe, in Denmark we were still able to gather 15 participants from 9 countries and the board was also well represented. Of course, liveARCH – the EU project established to bring EXARC safely into the future – was discussed.

The meeting in Denmark had an impressive start, as the Medieval Centre invited everybody to attend an evening firing fireballs from the big trebuchet or throwing machine, which is situated on a small mound in the centre.



■ Fig. 2 The big trebuchet at the centre. The whole range of mechanical artillery are reconstructed and the centre is now working with gunpowder weapons.

These machines meant business in medieval time and for the members of the meeting it was a nice kick before the start of a meeting which both had long, trivial and necessary discussions on small matters concerning the definition of EXARC, but also had fine, big and ambitious thoughts and plans for the future.

EXARC wants to become a member of ICOM, which is not as simple as it sounds, because in order to become a member, EXARC has to grow up very fast and become a well run professional organisation with worldwide connections and with many members. In order to achieve this goal one needs to look at the time after liveARCH and somehow get the funding for running the organisation on this new level. This can be achieved through new EU projects or by more members and higher fees, maybe with a scaled payment system, so that the bigger and more consolidated members pay more than newly started projects or institutions. Also EXARC has to look at what it takes to be a member of the organisation and set new standards.

Another and a very interesting discussion took place on the second day of the meeting. The members simply asked themselves this question: "Why would I like to attend an EXARC meeting?" First of all it should be interesting and entertaining. An EXARC meeting should be the place where one can learn about the newest research within experimental archaeology and other important subjects for the members, where one can attend the best and most interesting lectures, where there are exciting excursions to local or national attractions and museums planned by the host-



■ Fig. 1 The centre is 17 years old and has around 70.000 visitors every year. (Fig. 1, 2 - photo: Middelaldercentret)

ing member and finally where there are nice social arrangements to meet people, connect and establish networks.

Everybody agreed on this and the board looked ahead to the annual general meeting in Italy and organised a group to start planning this meeting according to the wishes of the members.

All in all, the 3 days at the Medieval Centre was a nice intimate meeting with many interesting discussions about the future in a form that one could overview!

EXARC invites archaeological open air museums to attend their next annual general meeting in March '09 in Modena. Please return to our website www.exarc.eu for more details.

Summary

Le congrès de l'EXARC au Danemark

Le congrès 2008 de l'EXARC s'est tenu au centre médiéval de Nykøbing au Danemark. Les discussions ont porté sur l'opportunité pour l'association de devenir un membre de l'ICOM et sur ce que les membres de l'association retirent de ces réunions.

Treffen von EXARC in Dänemark

Das Treffen von EXARC fand im Jahre 2008 in Dänemark statt, und zwar im Mittelalter Zentrum von Nykøbing (Falster). Auf den Sitzungen wurde über die Pläne diskutiert, ob und wie EXARC ein Mitglied von ICOM, dem internationalen Museumsrat, werden könne und was auf den zukünftigen Treffen den Mitgliedern angeboten werden könne.



■ Fig. 3 Medieval historian Kaare Johannesen giving a tour at the Medieval centre. Photo: Roeland Paardekooper