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Archaeology and Heritage on the Way to Sustainability

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Topic - Managing the Archaeological Heritage

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The debates on the relationship between archaeology and sustainability usually reflect the difficulty of placing common disputed arguments on the same level in discussion. You will often see the term "sustainability" associated with very different things, and meaning very different things. We want to limit the field of discussion, since this is the only way to ensure a degree of uniformity in the same and, therefore, consistency in the conclusions. We expect contributions that reflect a theoretical reflection, albeit from practical experiences.

In the professional and disciplinary level, we discuss the feasibility of archaeology as an economic sector in the context of a particular model of socio-economic relations, which is in a crisis (it is estimated that we are between 25,000 and 30,000 archaeologists in Europe, despite of reduced headcount in the last five years). What alternatives, if any, are posed for archaeology to absorb this huge amount of skilled labor generated in the wake of the construction boom? Are the public and community archaeologies a sustainable solution for all this professional sector? Are sustainable alternatives emerging in archaeology and heritage management, which are autonomous institutions whose current business model is supposedly based on social innovation and self-reliance of the activity?

In the political-administrative scale, we discuss alternative for economic policies. What regulatory framework and political relations would be necessary to enable an archaeology and heritage management oriented towards a truly sustainable development? Is sustainable the current volume of archaeological activity a volume as exists currently funded and supported by public funds? Are institutional political models giving coverage to management formulas which have emerged outside the institutions viable? How are they articulated at the level of Public Policies concepts such as Public Archaeology and Community Archaeology? How to combine both of them with preventive archaeology, if the latter is sustainable?

Presentation Preference - Regular session (half day)