

**ROUND TABLE TITLE:**        **Continuity and discontinuity in international cooperation in the frame work of rescue archaeology-some recent European experiences**

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**ROUND TABLE PROPOSAL:**

The inherent international character of archaeology is rarely reflected in more extensive cooperation between institutions involved in rescue archaeology. In Europe, this is mostly due to a lack of resources and funding earmarked for cooperation and research based on international contacts. The cooperation and research projects existing today is mostly based on personal initiative and contacts, and the lack of an institutionalized European infra structure, where the aims and goals of international cooperation in the frame work of rescue archaeology could be framed and administered, is a serious negative factor. In combination with an increased national and international competition based on varying national and regional legislation, international cooperation is not a prioritized activity.

Despite these poor conditions, there are some recent examples of international cooperation in the frame work of rescue archaeology, though the majority have also been based on cooperation and joint ventures with other institutions, like museums and universities. An illustrative example is the EOEC-project (Emergence of European Communities) concerning the formation of Bronze Age polities of different size and complexity, where the results from rescue archaeology have been combined with specially designed research surveys and excavations. The project was directed by the Department of Archaeology at Göteborg University, Sweden, and to a large part based on funding from the European Union. As a contrast, the project "Between Two Seas", concerning a comparative study of long time change in Southern Scandinavia and Northern Italy, will be discussed. This project was funded by the National Heritage Board, Excavation Department in Lund, Sweden, and the Soprintendenza per i beni archeologici in Trentino, Italy.

Based on these two examples, the aim of the session is to discuss future conditions for international cooperation in more general terms, where rescue archaeology could contribute to the research process concerning more wide issues with a pan-European perspective.

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