

**SESSION TITLE:** Archaeologists and civil engineers. Challenges of large infrastructure projects

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**SESSION PROPOSAL:**

Significant increase of large scale infrastructure projects over the last decades triggered dynamic development-led commercial archaeology across Europe. As a result, this sector of archaeological profession is now responsible for conducting a majority of field works and delivery of a vast body of research. Emergence of this kind of archaeological activity in relation to construction projects made co-operation between ! archaeologists and engineers absolutely necessary. This refers to various levels of the project including planning, designing and undertaking of work. As of today, there is a lack of understanding of professional needs between both sectors, which can have significant financial and environmental impacts. Projects can become delayed with ensuing costs a direct consequence from one side, and archaeological remains can be unnecessarily damaged or destroyed from the other. Improved co-operation between the two sectors will reduce the environmental impact of construction engineering projects and improve their efficiency by integrating archaeological considerations into the project management programme and delivery.

The session aims to discuss strategies of deepening and broadening professional understandings between these two professional sectors as well as improving skills to work together more effectively.

As part of this, the session will look at the outcomes of the Archaeology and Civil Engineering Skills project, which EAA is an active partner in, debating efficient means of communicating between professional archaeologists and engineers including methods and content of vocational training.

The session will also debate current models of co-operation between these two sectors pursued in development-led context across Europe. It will seek examples of best practice that illustrate how it is being conducted to meet professional standards in both the archaeological and engineering sectors. In order to achieve this the session's breadth will expand to bring in viewpoints from other, related professional sectors – such as planners and architects – to strengthen our discussion and understanding.

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