

Notes of the EXARC meeting in Eindhoven, October 19, 2001

as remembered by Roeland Paardekooper.

See for the addresses of the EXARC members, the address list of February 2001.

Present:

Apals, Janis (Lv), Boonstra, Anneke (NL), Johansson, Tomas (S), Paardekooper, Roeland (NL), Pajusi, Arwo (S), Peise, Fabian (D), Poroszlai, Ildikó (H), Schmidt, Martin (D), Schöbel, Gunter (D), Strassmeir, Andreas (D), Vilka, Anda (Lv), Walter, Peter (D), Wellin, Lars (S) & Wunderli, Marlise (CH).

Not Present (with notification): Banghard, Karl (D); Hein, Wulf (D)

Agenda

Looking back at the period since 'Oerlinghausen - February 2001'

Getting EXARC alive in the near future: what do we want

- Internet
- Pr & copyrights
- New members
- Founding
- Finances
- Activities

Last round of remarks

Looking back at the period since 'Oerlinghausen - February 2001'

Janis & Anda (Araisi): we had a busy season.

Gunter & Peter (Unteruhldingen): We are working with a new system, and we had a great August: 69,000 visitors, with a maximum of 2,900 per day. We are building now within a European project, called Archaeo-Live, working together with partners in Austria and Italy.

Tomas (IAT): I have been busy with the Roar project and the EU, but so far no results yet. Further, I have been in Siberia, where oil companies are changing the society and landscape very fast. One is interested in activities from an ethno-archaeological point of view. Maybe we can support the idea of saving their heritage. Seen from a European view, it is important.

We have our Swedish network, with which we just had our half year's meeting. 33 villages are connected in this network. We had a meeting with traditional archaeologists and it looks good.

Anneke (POM): we are building our medieval section now, buildings, programs.. Our visitor numbers have remained the same in comparison with the year before.

Arwo (Kalmar Läns Museum): our school programmes are going fine. In our medieval town, we had 20,000 visitors. Normally we have 30,000, but the summer was just too hot!

Lars (Skäftekärr): In Sweden, everywhere we had problems with the hot summer, people preferred to go to the beaches. We had 28% less visitors, but we raised our entrance fee, so we ended up with the same amount of money. We did some small experiments and renovated (reshaped) our winter landscape.

Fabian & Andreas (Düppel): the head organisation, of which we are just a small department, is out of money. Düppel needs an animal keeper. This would be the only paid job in the museum. Now all volunteers put together money, to pay him. Andreas is working on a list of re-enactment & experts. The list is proceeding and can hopefully be presented in Riga.

Ildikó (Százhalombatta): we have both an excavation and a archaeological park. We started this season to build two new Iron Age houses and continue with the environmental reconstruction. We are looking for funding from cultural tourism point of view. Our local government is interested in helping us planning a big modern building.

Martin (AFM Oerlinghausen): There are problems with official, because of which we haven't been able to participate in Roar. Incompetence of one of the officials will probably cost the museum about € 40,000. This endangers the working for other museums and is very time consuming. Because of bad weather, there were less visitors. Kalkriese, a large project in the neighbourhood has by now a big debt. On April 23rd, it will re-open. Many people look carefully if it will not be too commercial.

Marlise (AEAS): In Neuchatel, a new showcase museum (in German: *Vitrinemuseum*) has opened, including one reconstructed Neolithic house and a Roman boat. The exhibition is very traditional, but a lot of money has been spent on both the exhibition as the new building it is housed in. The building houses as well the prehistoric department of the region.

Roeland (VAEE): Not much happened in Holland, although: there are no new projects started up, but many existing projects chose this year to renovate their buildings or to expand: Haps, Amersfoort, Eindhoven, Lelystad, .. There are no numbers yet about the almost finished season.

General comments on activities by EXARC:

Lars: the summer is just too busy to be able to have or establish formal contacts. The winter is much better. We need informal contacts, we need to know what people are doing, so a short mail or phone call is easily made. The social contacts are necessary as well, to realise we are not alone.

Fabian: we should have more frequent communication. Small messages and a magazine?

It would be good to have EXARC-correspondents per country. We could spread newsletters in English, while every correspondent can translate it for their own public. One copy of every translated newsletter should then be kept in the central archives.

Getting EXARC alive in the near future: what do we want

Martin: we now have a simple statement of what we want EXARC to stand for, but we need a code of ethics, we need to put flesh on the bones. We have to add comment, like for example: "*what is quality*", or: "*what is an open air museum*", "*what about shops*", .. We must make EXARC more real.

Andreas: we should think carefully about exchanging information. It should not be too time consuming and we are not in a rush, we do not need to panic. We have to think as well about generating money for EXARC.

Internet

Everybody has had a chance to look into the internal web pages, which were for evaluation. Most of them are supposed to be published externally, to have more to offer to those interested.

Of the pages "who are we", where every EXARC member is presented, an internal version or mirror page would be welcome, including a personal information sheet. On the public pages, the institutes will be presented, not individual members.

Apple users have had problems and could not enter the restricted area. These problems have (temporarily) been solved. We do need a calendar of events or happenings in the external part.

PR & copyrights

Do we want to take part in ICOM or have them as example? We are in fact all fake, we are no museums. But we are no fun parks either. Do we need another identity, are we "archaeological parks"? If you wish to be a museum, this is a more or less protected name. For the time being, we look at ICOM, but there is no need to get in close contact with them.

When do we start to make PR for EXARC and how 'low profile' should we be? We are included by now in different archaeological web-portals, small articles have been published by both Tomas and Roeland and just today, a news paper article was published in Eindhoven on EXARC (which all of you have received in the last news mail from November 2nd, rp). We really have to watch out for inflation of EXARC. Andreas will check the copyright issue. Marlise would like to explain to her members in Switzerland about EXARC. Roeland will send her his article, which might be useful.

New Members

Tomas: if we talk about new members, it would be good to keep an eye on the Hell's Angels system, or the medieval guilds system. New people must add something: money, contacts, work, qualified experience. It must be an active membership: one has to bring something in, add something.

Martin: the more people are member, the more fragmented EXARC will be. Maybe we should first accept new members in one or two years. At the ICOM society for ethnographic museums, senior members can apply, it means: new members are only accepted through old ones, just like a guild.

Who are on our list for the informal meeting of Saturday evening? (For the complete list of who was present, check the news mail of November 2nd, rp). We shouldn't have EXARC growing too fast! Should we have every country represented? Denmark is for example different from others, and what about the UK? It should be special to join, but we choose institute's representatives or individuals.

Founding

For founding EXARC, different people will check the possibilities and the costs in different countries: Martin will check the German situation, Tomas will check the Swedish one and Roeland will check in the Netherlands. We will need a first board, for the coming 14 months. All present chose the following board to start with: President: Tomas, Secretary: Roeland & Treasurer: Lars.

Tomas proposes, for the formalisation the procedure that a small group will prepare the statutes. These will be sent to all members by email, for remarks. After these remarks, we will continue and found EXARC.

Finances

We agree on a maximum of € 50,= per year per institute as a membership fee. Probably, we will ask this amount from 2002 on. We need to build up a budget, what we think will be spent and earned over the coming year. Costs which will be present in 2002 are for sure the web space and the notary when we would legalise EXARC as a so called idealistic society, possibly under European law.

EXARC should generate its own money. We might do this by republishing certain publications or by merchandising. These are very vague ideas and this issue really starts to be important after May 2002.

We should seek sponsors for specific events. Further, we can choose one event per country and 'make it' an EXARC event. It should be in the heart of the knowledge and it might attract national sponsors for specific events.

Maybe we can address the EU again, under a different constellation. Remember, there were a few EXARC partners, we are not part of the ROAR project, but are very interested in taking part in another European initiative (Oerlinghausen, Eindhoven, ..). Anda remarks, that in Latvia, there is information on long running projects (5 years or more) with at least 7 countries participating. She will send details to Tomas and Roeland.

There might be a EU tour, organised in autumn of next year. Surely, there will be a Swedish Network's (NSLF) tour through Germany, Holland and ..??

Activities

Our next meeting will be in Riga, Latvia from Thursday June 6th to Sunday, June 9th 2002. The technical EXARC session will be on Thursday. The rest of the time will be spent on the subjects "textiles and wooden buildings". We will have, besides of EXARC members, extra participants for those themes. Everybody can be visitor, but the program and those executing it, should stand for a good quality. More news will follow through the e-mail newsletters and the website.

Shouldn't we think about other activities as well? The so called 'Tagung' of Prof. Fansa has over the last five years often been organised by now EXARC members. Should we slowly move it towards us? Mr. Fansa has his own idea of organising a European network, open to all individuals. maybe he will have the association, we will have the foundation.

Last round of remarks

Lars: we should use EXARC as a network and put something of ourselves in it. There will be a new education in Sweden, between university and 'Fachhochschule'. Skäftekärr is participating in such a course (in November will be sure if it will take place or not). It will take two years, of which 1/3rd one works in practice.

This might be important for EXARC. We must put it in a legal way: how can EXARC supply information et cetera? We have to internationalise and exchange people.

Gunter: what about the development in tourism to edutainment (education, recreation and research are the general points of an open air museum)? Peter adds: we have a card for activities around the Bodensee: people buy that card and within 3 to 7 days, one can visit one's own personal selection out of 120 to 150 participating institutes.

Lars: a recent research showed the interests of people: 33% shopping, 18% outdoor activities, 16% historical / archaeological sites, 11% sun, 10% culture, 9% casino / pleasure.

We are taking in general too low entrance fees! 1,5 to 2 hours staying might cost € 6,00. And: take good care of your museum shops, by having good quality you can have a successful enterprise.

Our next meeting: Thursday, June 6th, in Riga.