

Where should EXARC stand in 2011?

And how to get there...

February 9th 2008, 13:00h – 17:00h (plus a bit on the Sunday)

As remembered by Roeland Paardekooper, secretary.

Loose notes of the meeting of EXARC members on at the Middelaldercentret in Nykøbing, Denmark. 16 people were present – for a listing, you can request the list of participants with the secretary.

www.exarc.eu

Communication

The official language remains English – and there should be only 1 single official language! German newsletters is a nice extra, but no guarantee. However, there is a lot of interest. What if people come to “regional” meetings but don’t communicate outside their region? Isn’t it difficult to change it anyway?

EXARC should be open minded to new members – welcoming. The language of communication is not the problem, but the communication itself: what happens where and who does it and the such.

EU

European projects can help with the visibility of EXARC. It can be used for cooperation possibilities between members, even if far apart from each other.

cultural heritage might be difficult under “Culture 2007”. INTERREG is a better option. If you want funding before 2014 we better look at our function in society (“cultural economy”) instead of at “cultural heritage”.

liveARCH will end in November 2009. What next? Culture 2000 was the most bureaucratic programme there was and we managed. It would be best if a new project covers all members of EXARC, so INTERREG 4C might be a good option. “competitiveness” & “sustainability” are key words there. INTERREG is not about tourism or culture. Last call had 500 applications. “Cultural tourism” might first be a chance after 2014.

- Our “role in society” – as employer, motor for local economy et cetera
- Setting up an accreditation system? Hard

“experience economy” is an important key phrase to work on.

The members present regard accreditation as an important tool / goal for EXARC. Many things of accreditation are about developing your own museum. Is it possible to use the right EU words but still do some of our accreditation there? Difficult to answer. Try to not get the EU “bureaucracy” in the way from the “content” we would share with each other.

EXARC as a “loose” network and small groups of members working together, or is it just knowing each other through EXARC but not cooperating under the EXARC flag? What use of EXARC is a EU project? Or is it just useful for its members? Can we have a project as EXARC itself? Strengthen EXARC instead of single groups within EXARC?

liveARCH is a product made for developing EXARC, as a kind of pilot project or accelerator.

We all agree we want to get forward, but if we cannot get funding for accreditation, where do we go?

We will set up an accreditation commission.

Peter Vemming: there is much work on EU projects, and it keeps me away from the content.

EU project access is an added value of EXARC. Not everybody needs to do so.

There is no programme which really fits with us so far.

It is not wise to force a new project. Better wait until a good chance comes up.

Youth camps are an easy application to set up. Three people will look into the options: Anda Vilka, Laurent Mazet & Helle Krogh.

We are worried about what happens after *liveARCH* until there is a new project. If we don’t do anything now – there will be a black hole after 2009. A strategic INTERREG application instead of something on living history or experiments? INTERREG 4C is Europe wide.

Laurent would like to join this commission, just like Geir & Roeland

Conferences & meetings

The Danish network is not so bureaucratic and is very loosely organised. This works well in a small country, but probably not in an international perspective. They have once each 2 years a “maxi meeting” where 100 people of all members organisations meet. This is a 3 – 4 days program with workshops, excursions and different ways of getting information and experience across. Then you have the “midi meetings” – once a year a meeting of the prehistoric projects, separate meeting of the medieval projects and one of the post medieval projects. The last series are the mini-meetings on a craft or material or educational theme. The Danish network is very down to earth, EXARC needs to be more strategic in its themes. We should combine being theoretical and concrete.

Couldn’t EXARC offer a maxi meeting every 2nd year? With funding for attendance? 4 days? There should be great variation in working during a meeting – concrete results planned, a good and transparent decision process.

It is a good idea to involving our members more actively in workgroups– self running. EXARC could pay some speakers and the such for specialised meetings.

If we have meetings, these must be a popular place to meet and:

- To learn about the latest research
- To inspire for events
- To get contacts

Who can afford time and money for conventions? Should we increase membership fee so we can afford funding members for that?

Should meetings be in the weekend or on workdays (In wintertime of course)? There are different opinions. Maybe best is a conference which includes the weekend.

The hosting needs to be ensured – a good quality and trust.

What would we like to do in a 3 days' EXARC meeting?

- Excursion
- Latest research
- A Theme with key persons to work on it with the participants
 - o Reasonable level of presentations

Possible programme

1st day Arrival day (board meeting)

2nd day Presentations (full day)

Half day core business: education, exp. Arch, living history, ..

Half day: management, marketing, shop and the such? Accreditation

3rd day Excursion

4th day AGM and the such, wrap up at 14:00h.

Who helps organising the conference in Italy? Ilaria is presiding. The suggestion is a committee under her leadership, with as members Peter Vemming, Laurent Mazet & Steve Dyer. It would be important to combine *liveARCH* and EXARC meeting in a good way.

Miscellaneous

Through ICOM we might get a status, through other channels we might get more funding.

Should we do more lobbying at ICOM?

liveARCH is an example of members paying more. With a lot of funding added to it, there are much returns (staff exchanges, specialist seminars, bureau, ...).

When EXARC would be stronger, it could also aid the smaller members.

Should we be doubling fees in 2009? If we do that, there must be enough extras → instant benefits.

Can we list measurable / concrete results we like to reach for example latest in 2011?

For example

- No conference fees for 1 person per membership.
- Conferences with guest-specialists.

We need to inform the members about what we have discussed and what our concerns are. We must prepare the members for a change → the present AGM is not very well visited so it is hard to decide.

If we are going to have individual membership, this should (financially) be on a moderate level.

What is the added value of EXARC? And what to use the extra fees for? What is the use of it for the members?

We should talk less and learn more which can be used in daily museum life. EXARC is a nice society, but we can't offer any good programme without funds.

Why not trying a bit more to do like *liveARCH*? That is the goal. End 2009!

Can we set up a "Rescue Squad" to consult the members? The secretariat is doing this a bit.

Shall we offer an "EXARC" guide? With tourist routes which link EXARC members?

Can we also work on sustainable tourism and cultural tourism?

Is the public a target group of EXARC? We should not be reaching out to the public at large.

What are EXARC's main goals? Lobbying, networking, getting reputation, getting funds.

Last round of remarks

Anda: we worked a lot with the definition, next meetings and where to go. The discussions are important. We are moving somewhere. The coming 2 years can be decisive for EXARC.

Helle: the meeting is short, but we got somewhere. We need a new way to think. It was easy to have you here.

Steve: it is a shame not more members were here, but we are making ground and get results.

Niko: I was happy to join – I got some good feedback for our project in Ireland.

Sonja: thank you for having me as a guest. I would like to be personal member. I like to be part of it.

Jane: that counts for me too.

Joyce: I am glad we are more focussed now.

Laurent: it was a great pleasure to come here. Now I have a better picture of EXARC. There is a good potential. We have modern technology: let's use them.

Geir: it was a good meeting, but we have to follow up on what we decided. Only then it will be good for EXARC.

Roeland: it is good to meet once not under *liveARCH* flag. We can get somewhere, but have to move on after this meeting. Special thanks to the guests – non-members. The secretary work is sometimes lonely – being the only one with an overview – any help is appreciated.

Peter: it was nice having you. All the best to EXARC.

Martin: as usual it is a problem how to involve the members. The EU projects are an example what is possible. The main goal is to make EXARC a stronger organisation. Do not be afraid to have many consumers and only a few active. Some kind of accreditation can work well.

Björn: thanks for all joining us. We are about to make a next step. We are more focussed. We are not begging, but we have something to offer. Thanks again to our hosts.

Decisions

- A committee for looking into a youth camp application: Anda Vilka, Laurent Mazet & Helle Krogh.
- A committee looking into an INTERREG application: Geir Sør Reime, Roeland Paardekooper & Laurent Mazet.
- A committee organising the next EXARC meeting: Ilaria Pullini, Peter Vemming, Laurent Mazet & Steve Dyer.
- A accreditation committee: Björn Jakobsen, Ulrike Braun, Roeland Paardekooper & Martin Schmidt.
- The board will propose new membership fees including an overview of instant benefits