

The OneArchSci Newsletter #1

26 August 2025



One Archaeological Science in the BEMME region: An overview

The OneArchSci project is structured around the four core objectives that guide the European Commission's ERA Chair Work Programme.

Together, these aim to drive institutional reform, optimise the use of existing research infrastructure, attract and retain high-calibre talent, and enhance collaboration and mobility across disciplines and sectors.

For the OneArchSci ERA Chair, we have recruited Professor Patrick Degryse from KU Leuven, a world-leading expert in archaeological materials science to help us build and lead a dynamic, interdisciplinary research team.

Over the next four years, we will expand and enhance the activities of the Archaeological Science Group (ASG) at Cyl and connect us with you, our stakeholders.

The project advocates the use of advanced isotope analysis tailored to the needs of the Balkans, the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East: the BEMME region.

OneArchSci promotes a 'One Science' approach to deeply integrate diverse scientific disciplines, fostering a strong postgraduate and postdoctoral research culture.

Overall, it will position the ASG at the forefront of innovation by strengthening its engagement with non-academic stakeholders—including SMEs, governmental bodies, and NGOs—active in archaeology, cultural heritage, and environmental, materials and life sciences.

These efforts are closely aligned with the regulatory framework and strategic priorities outlined in Cyprus' Smart Specialization Strategy 2030.



HORIZON-
WIDERA-2023-
TALENTS-01

GA: 101186503

Starting Date:
01.01.2025

Duration: 60
months



Funded by
the European Union



OneArchSci Kick-Off

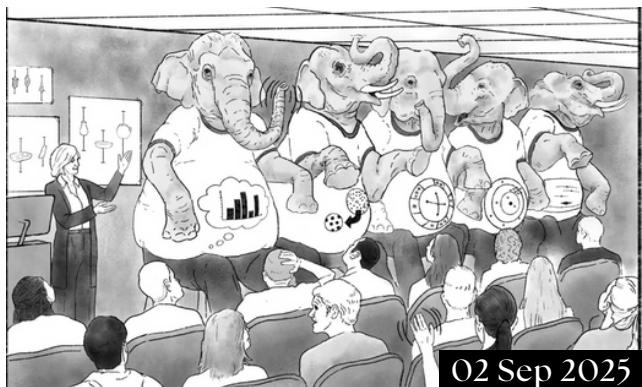
On January 21, 2025, The Cyprus Institute officially launched the ERA Chair in One Archaeological Science (OneArchSci), led by isotope expert Professor Patrick Degryse. This five-year Horizon Europe project will strengthen research capacity in isotope analysis to address key archaeological and environmental questions in Cyprus and beyond. The launch event featured speeches by national leaders, including Dr. Vasiliki Kassianidou (Deputy Minister of Culture), Mr. Georgios Komodromos (Permanent Secretary, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy), and Dr. Giorgos Georgiou (Director, Department of Antiquities), highlighting the project's importance for science and innovation in the region.

Over the next few years, OneArchSci will recruit specialists in isotope studies and develop new analytical methods, fostering collaboration across government, NGOs, and SMEs.

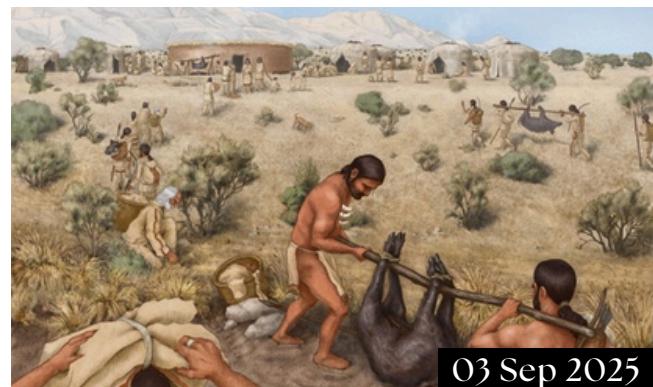
We will organise training events and seminars across all aspects of isotope analysis for researchers, practitioners and students, both in person and online—the first two are coming up soon, so register to secure your place!

The project positions Cyprus as a regional hub for archaeological science with a unified focus on environmental archaeology, human mobility, nutrition, and material studies. For more details on the launch and agenda, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Training Events:



Save the Date!



Training Workshop: Fundamental Statistics for Isotope Analyses

Dr Petra Vaihova, biomolecular archaeologist and Lecturer at the Australian National University, will lead a hybrid workshop on key statistical concepts in isotopic data analysis. The session will cover research design, sampling, and interpretation, helping participants apply current best practices and evaluate studies critically. Resources for continued learning will be provided. More details and registration links are available [here](#).

Hybrid Seminar: Using Developmental Growth Patterns in Teeth to Improve the Resolution of Isotopic Analyses: a Case Study of Wild Boar Feasting in Early Neolithic Asiab, Western Iran

Dr. Vaihova will present a study using improved isotopic analysis aligned with tooth growth to examine wild boar teeth from an Early Neolithic feasting site at Asiab in western Iran. Results suggest the boars were brought from elsewhere, not locally sourced. She will also discuss combining in situ and hand-drilling methods for better future research.

More information can be found [here](#).



Isotope Analysis as a Window into Neolithic Migration and Social Dynamics

Depaermentier et al.'s study (2020) highlights how isotope analysis can transform our understanding of prehistoric mobility. Focusing on the 6th–5th millennia BC in the Carpathian Basin, the researchers analyzed strontium and oxygen isotopes in the dental enamel of more than 700 individuals from 55 Neolithic sites. This dataset allowed them to identify patterns of movement at site-specific, micro-regional, and supra-regional scales. Their results revealed varied mobility behaviors, including exogamy networks, supra-regional contacts, and shifts in movement dynamics across cultural phases, offering new insights into the complexity of Neolithisation processes. This research underscores the importance of isotope analysis as a powerful archaeological tool.

By examining chemical signatures preserved in human tissues, isotopes provide direct, individual-level evidence of mobility that cannot be reconstructed from material culture alone. The method allows archaeologists to determine whether individuals were local or non-local, to distinguish between different scales of movement, and to track social practices such as marriage exchanges or long-distance cultural links.

Its benefits lie in generating data that can be integrated with archaeological and genetic evidence, thus enriching interpretations of past social, economic, and cultural organization and deepening our understanding of how communities interacted and transformed in prehistory.

Read the full article [here](#)

Thank you for reading!

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