

Preface

The second edition of the Workshop on ‘The New Technologies’ attests how relevant is such an initiative, focussed on the multi-layered archaeological area of Aquileia. All contributions draw their inspiration from two basic principles: knowledge and preservation.

Broad archaeological areas – and Aquileia is such, indeed – need effective town and landscape planning tools to better survive in a Country such as Italy, where consumption of land has taken an alarming trend and widespread diffusion, to make understatement. In addition, in Aquileia we have to address problems arising from the co-existing archaeological and modern/contemporary settlements, where the former actually embed the latter.

On the other hand, the growing seaside tourism of the city of Grado nearby brings novel trends of development for services and private settlements, maybe not of minor importance. Finally, the new demands of international tourism point towards solutions for leisure such as cycle and water paths, both provided with suitable logistics and security services.

Addressing such issue in a successful way means having at disposal useful tools for managing appropriately territorial resources: as a wide archaeological area, Aquileia cannot give up with such a peculiar social mission.

The contributions to the Workshop propose clear-cut solutions on both methodological and technological grounds. It is fairly obvious that a primary need is the capability to individuate size and features of sites of archaeological interest: purposes and extent of detected structures; their underground depth; relationship with structures nearby; their conditions, relevance, as well as potentialities of conservation and enhancement. In other words, taking protection measures requires a detailed and precise knowledge of the status of affairs, and environmental planning itself cannot leave such data aside.

Fifteen Authors present seven scientific contributions ranging from new methods and techniques to non-destructive investigations: stated another way, their reaffirm how useful can be the research activities that put aside excavations and recovery of findings. At the same time, it is recognized that modern archaeology cannot leave apart environmental history, and so reconstructing the dynamics of an ecosystem as well as the history of a landscape. The paper by D. Bartoli, M. Capulli and P. Holt reporting their ‘Anaxum’ project goes along this direction, and the same does the one by S. Magnani. The social role of Archaeology is so enriched with an eco-anthropological perspective, which in turn yields further, valuable contributions to our territory.

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