Report for the CAA National Chapter of Czechia-Slovakia

Reporting Period: 2023

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Update on the National Chapter Activities:

General focus of the Czechia-Slovakia National Chapter:

The activities carried out by the Czechia-Slovakia National Chapter are closely related to the focus of the general statutes of the CAA. The main activities include:

- Organising the annual national CAA conference in the Czech Republic or Slovakia (once a year)

- Creating a network of experts on digital archaeology at both academic and commercial levels

 - Continuous monitoring and contact with archaeology departments to inquire about their courses and possible involvement by members of the Czechia-Slovakia National Chapter

- Organization of professional workshops and lectures based on digital archaeology (especially for students)

Activities of the National Chapter Czechia-Slovakia in 2023

As part of the activities of the National Chapter Czechia-Slovakia, we have resumed the working activity of the section after the sudden death of its previous formal chairman – prof. Ladislav Šmejda at the end of the year 2022. In May 2023, a new composition of the committee was elected at the CAA local conference.

- Lenka Starková (CZ), Chair
- David Novák (CZ), Co-chair
- Alexandra Bucha Rášová (SK), Secretary
- Petr Krištuf (CZ), Treasurer
- Katarína Hladíková (SK) Committee member
- Ronald Harasim (CZ) Committee member - student representation

Overview of activities in 2023:

- CAA (Czechia-Slovakia) local international Conference, Boží Dar, Czech Republic, 31.5. - 2.6. 2023 - organising and hosting an international conference aimed at bringing together experts in the field of digital archaeology to share the latest knowledge and technologies.

- Training workshop on aerial archaeology and remote sensing under the department of Archaeology, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Sazená airport, Czech Republic, 14.6 - 16.6. 2023

- Active publication activities

- Supporting students and research activities - offering professional consultation to students and researchers across Czechia-Slovakia archaeology to support their academic growth and research projects.

- Cooperation with international partners

(The minutes of last year's Czechia-Slovakia National Chapter meeting during the annual conference are included at the end of this report.)

The Czechia-Slovakia National Chapter is committed to future activities:

The Czechia-Slovakia National Chapter plans to activate a mailing list for communication with members in 2024 as well as to launch the official website of the local chapter. The CAA Czechia-Slovakia National Chapter will hold the next local conference between 28-30 May in Slovakia (Kočovce).

Other future activities include:

- Implementation of the annual AGM of the Czechia-Slovakia National Chapter as part of the domestic conferences.

- Increase social networking activities

- National committee meetings twice a year

- Annual membership updates and recruitment of new members

- Opportunities to organise professional workshops (in cooperation with university and academic environment)

- Regular updates of the website and its content

The minutes of 2023 Czechia-Slovakia National Chapter annual meeting and conference

The 22nd conference was held in Boží Dar, West Bohemia, on 31.5.-2.6.2023 and it was organised by the Department of Archaeology of University of West Bohemia, National Heritage Institute - Regional Office in Loket, Institute of Archaeology and Museology of Masaryk University in Brno and Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences Prague. The conference was dedicated to the memory of Ladislav Šmejda who passed away in autumn 2022. Ladislav Šmejda was a long-standing chair of CAA CS and a prominent member of our community. He will be deeply missed.

The papers were divided into 5 session and were accompanied by a poster session and a keynote lecture from Sara Polak on archaeology and technology, namely artificial intelligence, blockchain and virtual/augmented reality.

Conference website: https://www.kar.zcu.cz/divize.php?shortcutdiv=PPA

During the conference, on 31 May 2023, the annual general meeting (AGM) of CAA Czechia/Slovakia took place with the main goal to establish new members of the steering committee as defined in the constitution of CAA CS. After the sad passing of Ladislav Šmejda, the previous chair, the position was temporarily covered by David Novák who acted as a provisional chair. The 34 attendees voted and unanimously elected 6 convenors who represent both countries (CZ, SK).

The new steering committee is as follows:

- Lenka Starková (CZ) as the **chair** of CAA CS
- David Novák (CZ) as the co-chair of CAA CS
- Alexandra Bucha Rášová (SK) as the **secretary** of CAA CS
- Petr Krištuf (CZ) as the **treasurer** of CAA CS
- Katarína Hladíková (SK)
- Ronald Harasim (CZ)

The newly elected steering committee discussed the basic organisation of CAA CS as well as future activities, namely:

1. The committee will inform the members of CAA CS about the activities of CAA annually as a part of the conference. We will continue to support the organisation of the conference especially with regard to the inclusion of students (keeping the conference affordable, promoting active participation among the students, etc.).

2. The committee discussed the option of engaging in organising the CAA conference in the future (say, in 2026 or later) in Prague.

3. The communication channels, e.g. a mailing list, between the committee and members of CAA CS should be set up and maintained.

Czechia-Slovakia