

MedSTACH project



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Project acronym:	MedSTACH
Work Package	WP4
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Summary

This deliverable (D4.7: Conference papers/posters participation) presents a detailed list of all conferences where the MedSTACH project was presented, during Phase I, in order to disseminate MedSTACH's activities in the academic and industrial sectors. The list includes presentations in international and local conferences and workshops. The presentation of MedSTACH project and the Centre's activities in the specific conferences served the networking with key and relevant associations, stakeholders, private agencies, archaeological missions, and universities at a local and international level.

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1. Introduction

This report is Deliverable 4.7, which aims to present all the international and local conferences where the MedSTACH project and its envisaged Centre of Excellence were presented by members of the MedSTACH consortium during Phase 1. During the one year duration of this phase of the project, MedSTACH participated in five (5) conferences with two (2) oral and four (4) poster presentations. Furthermore, a dedicated session on the theme of “Science and Technology (S&T) for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean” was organised by the CUT and FORTH branches of the Consortium during the CAA 2018 International Conference to maximise impact. The theme of every conference is briefly described in order to highlight the targeted group of expertise in each instance. Overall, the project was disseminated to conference participants from the academic world, strategic partners, professional and institutional bodies and foreign universities and institutions. The presentation of the Centre’s mission and vision, as well as the MedSTACH’s activities, to the participants have created a very positive image for the Centre and made possible the development of future research networking.

2. Conferences and presented papers

During Phase I, the MedSTACH project was presented in five international conferences that are listed here and will be discussed in detail in the following paragraphs:

1. CAA International 2018:

Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (19-23 March 2018, Tübingen, Germany)

2. Biennial of Urban and Architectural Heritage 2018:

The 4th Biennial of Urban and Architectural Heritage: *The Hidden Cultural Heritage: Under Water, Under Ground and Within Buildings* (25-30 April 2018, Rethymno, Greece)

3. AGILE 2018:

Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe (12-15 June 2018, Lund, Sweden)

4. CAARI 2018:

37th Annual Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute Archaeological Workshop (16 June 2018, Nicosia, Cyprus)

5. CAA-Gr 2018:

3rd Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology–GR conference: *Spreading Excellence in Computer Applications for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage* (19-20 June 2018, Limassol, Cyprus)

6. EuroMED 2018 (expected):

6th International Euro-Mediterranean Conference (EuroMed 2018), Envisioning MedSTACH, the Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, (29th Oct. 2018 – 03th Nov. 2018, Nicosia, Cyprus)



2.1 Presented papers

List of oral presentations given by MedSTACH Consortium members

1. MedSTACH: Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, CAA International 2018, Tübingen, Germany.
2. Designing a Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean, CAA-Gr, Limassol, Cyprus.

2.2 Poster participation

List of poster presentations given by MedSTACH Consortium members

1. Designing a Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: The MedSTACH project, Biennial of Urban and Architectural Heritage 2018, Rethymno, Greece.
2. Designing a Geospatial Technologies - Enabled Eastern Mediterranean Science, Engineering and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, AGILE 2018, Lund, Sweden.
3. Designing a Science and Technology Center of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean, CAARI 2018, Nicosia, Cyprus.
4. Designing a Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean, CAA-Gr, Limassol, Cyprus.

2.3 Panels

List of panels presentations given by MedSTACH Consortium members (forthcoming)

1. Envisioning MedSTACH, the Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (EuroMED 2018, forthcoming Oct. 2018).

3. Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA 2018)

The 2018 Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA) international conference was held between March 19th and 23th, 2018 at the University of

Tübingen, Germany. The CAA Annual Conference is one of the main events in the calendar for scholars, specialists and experts in the field of computing technologies applied to archaeology.

The 46th Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology Conference (CAA 2018) was given the theme “Human history and digital future”. The conference tackled a multitude of topics pertaining to the application of computing technologies to archaeological research. Through diverse case studies from all over the world, the conference showed new technical approaches and best practice from various archaeological and computer-science disciplines. The conference brought together hundreds of participants from around the world in parallel sessions, workshops, tutorials and roundtables.

CUT and FORTH consortium members have organized a thematic session entitled as Science and Technology (S&T) for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean (Session 40). The topic of the session is described below:

Session 40: CAA International 2018



Science and Technology (S&T) for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean

This special session aims at promoting the establishment of an Eastern Mediterranean Centre of excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in Eastern Mediterranean that seeks to advance in a systematic way archaeological research and practice, as well as enhance sustainable growth through the preservation and valorisation of cultural heritage in the wider region. Based on the initiative of the recent successful Teaming for Excellence Phase 1 WIDESPREAD project MedSTACH (Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage), this session will showcase the need for such a regional entity that will capitalise on scientific excellence and multidisciplinary research.

Apart from excellent science and technological innovation, the particular centre will provide best practices and guidelines to local and regional stakeholders, while bridging existing gaps “on the ground” that often hinder the valorisation of cultural heritage. The session will seek papers dealing with current and future prospects of projects and activities in the wider area of the Eastern Mediterranean (including the Balkans, Middle East, Anatolia, NE Africa, etc.); the objective being to illustrate the current activities and needs in the wider spectrum of technologies applied in

archaeological research and cultural resources management, spanning from ground-based, aerial and satellite remote sensing, geoinformatics, spatial technologies, modelling, climatic reconstructions, protection and conservation of monuments, etc. Some key questions arising within this context include: How is sustainability of such centres achieved and maintained? Which are potential, current or future, services that are of need and can be integrated and supported by such centres? What is the potential involvement of the private/business sector and what are the links with the tourism industry?

The proposed special session will provide the forum for advocating the long-term need for a regional, science and technology centre of excellence in archaeology and cultural heritage, while presenting current relevant initiatives, thus offering a unique opportunity for networking the development of new synergies.

The MedSTACH Project was presented (oral presentation) at this specific session (full reference: Kyriakidis, Ph., Agapiou, A., Lysandrou, V., Kyriakides, N., Kassianidou, V., Papasavvas, G., Dikomitou, M., Charalambous, A., Moutsiou, T., Ieronymidou, M., Pilides, D., Kaldeli, A., Pantelides, P., Bevan, A., Martinon-Torres, M., Altaweel, M. & Sarris, A., MedSTACH: Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Center of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, *Computer Applications in Archaeology*, Tübingen, Germany, 2018). The abstract is given below:

MedSTACH: Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Center of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Abstract

The outstanding number of cultural sites from the eastern Mediterranean that are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, as well as the central role that the region has played to human prehistory and history, calls for a long-term, strategic planning for the documentation, scientific study, monitoring, protection, and promotion of its material culture. MedSTACH, a Horizon 2020, one-year project aims at addressing this imperative, through the design of the Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (MedSTACH). The project will be competing in “Teaming for Excellence” Phase 2 to secure funding of 15 million euros for a period of 5-7 years and beyond. MedSTACH’s key objective is to establish Cyprus as an excellence hub in archaeology and cultural heritage, capitalising on multidisciplinary research, engineering ingenuity and technological innovation. The MedSTACH consortium includes the Cyprus University of Technology (lead partner) and the University of Cyprus, as well as the key national stakeholders and policy-makers of the island responsible for cultural heritage management and for the promotion of Cyprus’ touristic product, i.e. the Department of Antiquities and the Cyprus Tourism Organization, respectively. Aiming at sustainable research and innovation excellence, the Cypriot institutions have joined forces with two international organizations, i.e. University College London and the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas; both being leaders in the fields of archaeology, cultural heritage research and education. This paper presents the MedSTACH project’s mission, including its principal objectives and key research domains.

4. The 4th Biennial of Urban and Architectural Heritage: The Hidden Cultural Heritage: Under Water, Under Ground and Within Buildings

The main goal of the International Congress on the theme of the **Hidden Cultural Heritage** (HCH) was to draw attention on the protection strategies and management of the underwater cultural heritage in the Mediterranean Sea and the underground and within buildings cultural heritage of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. The 4th Biennial of Urban and Architectural Heritage conference was held between April 25th and 30th, 2018 in Rethymno, Greece.

The BRAU4 organizing committee chose the above theme to explore in a more holistic approach the incredible landscape and seascape that was developed by thousands of years of human colonization, migration, trade and intercultural contact in the Mediterranean. The fundamental purpose of the HCH Congress was to contribute to the development of policies and strategies for the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage by fostering synergies between modern science and local knowledge. For this reason, the HCH Congress organized an international forum in which a wide range of risks threatening cultural heritage were examined and discussed in a multidisciplinary perspective. The aim of the conference is to encourage the development of (a) cultural policies intended to preserve cultural diversities and (b) areas of communication between public and private sectors.

The conference was attended by a diverse audience including representatives of universities and other educational institutions (including secondary schools), government agencies, museums, NGOs, IGOs, the private sector and also members of the general public.

MedSTACH Project was presented by Dr. Apostolos Sarris, Director of Research and Deputy Director of IMS-FORTH, with a poster entitled “**Designing a Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: The MedSTACH project**” (full reference: Kyriakidis, Ph., Sarris, A., Lysandrou, V & Agapiou, A., Designing a Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: The MedSTACH project, International Congress of BRAU4, the 4th Biennial of Urban and Architectural Heritage: THE HIDDEN CULTURAL HERITAGE: UNDER WATER, UNDER GROUND AND WITHIN BUILDINGS, Rethymno, Crete April 25-30, 2018).

The poster presentation of the BRAU event is demonstrated below:

BR
BIENNALE DEL RESTAURO
ARCHITETTIVO E URBANO

Designing a Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: the MedSTACH project

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Introduction

Project MedSTACH aims to establish Cyprus as an excellence hub in archaeology and cultural heritage, capitalising on research specialisation and technological innovation. To this end, key local public academic institutions and national policy makers/stakeholders are teaming up with leading international institutions to lay the groundwork towards creating the Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, acronym MedSTACH.

The MedSTACH proposal was ranked first (attaining full marks 15/15, "Excellent") at a pan-European scale, among 208 proposals submitted to the "WIDESPREAD-04-2017" Teaming Phase 1 call. MedSTACH has been awarded 0.4 million euros for a period of one year in order to develop a business plan for the envisaged Centre that will be submitted for evaluation in the Teaming Phase 2 call. If successful in Phase 2, MedSTACH will be awarded 15 million euros from the Horizon2020 framework for a period of 5-7 years, as well as an equal amount of national co-funding, given relevant prerequisites and conditions, for a period of up to 15 years.

MedSTACH's Objectives

- design a multidisciplinary science, engineering and technology Centre of Excellence for archaeology and CH in the Eastern Mediterranean region, based in Cyprus and addressing the priorities for the Island's sustainable economic growth as specified by the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus.
- strengthen research collaboration by teaming existing capabilities of the two largest public Universities of Cyprus, as well as key national stakeholders in CH management and tourism policy-making from the Cyprus (the widening country), with leading international institutions in the field of CH.
- establish collaborations with (a) potential innovation clusters from the private sector / industry, and (b) relevant existing research centres, regional stakeholders, academic institutions from Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean region and beyond.
- identify local research gaps and organizational barriers that hitherto have hampered the study, understanding and safeguarding of CH in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region, and develop a roadmap to overcome them.
- disseminate and promote the Centre's activities to the scientific community (academia and industry) and the broader public, locally and abroad.

MedSTACH's Research

MedSTACH aims to advance - via smart specialisation -- archaeology and cultural heritage research in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region, and ultimately become a point of reference in the region and Europe. MedSTACH seeks to foster multidisciplinary research and training activities, modernise research culture, and become a leading provider of geospatial and related services in support of archaeological research and education in the region. The main activities of the proposed Centre in relation to its research thematic priorities are encapsulated in the following Key Research Domains (KRDs), covering multiple facets of archaeological inquiry and CH priorities:

- I. Heritage Exploration
- II. Spatial Analysis/Inference
- III. Heritage Protection
- IV. Material Characterization

These KRDs will be constantly supported by the Heritage Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Unit, which will constitute the technical backbone for the Centre, both in terms of data used for conducting research, as well as in terms of services and products for the scientific community and broader public (e.g. digital archiving and database management, ontologies and metadata creation, web services).

The MedSTACH consortium constitutes a first-ever established alliance of this scale in Cyprus for archaeology and cultural heritage, both in terms of the number and diversity of partners involved as well as the duration of their engagement in such a long-term joint venture.

Consortium

The MedSTACH consortium includes the Cyprus University of Technology as lead partner, the University of Cyprus, as well as the key national stakeholders and policy makers of the island responsible for CH management, the Department of Antiquities, and for the promotion of Cyprus's touristic product, the Cyprus Tourism Organization. The Cypriot institutions join forces towards sustainable research and innovation excellence with two renowned institutions, ranked among the region's and world's leaders in the field of archaeology and CH research and education: the University College London (UCL) and the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH).

Acknowledgments

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find more here
www.medstach.eu

5. The Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe (AGILE) 2018

The Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe (AGILE) has been organizing annual conferences focused on Geographical Information Science for more than two decades. The 21st AGILE conference was held in Lund, Sweden on 12-15 June 2018. The theme of the conference for this year (2018) was **Geospatial Technologies for All**.

This year's main topics included Big Spatial Data: Analysis and Visualization, Volunteered Geographic Information and Community Observatories, Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of GI, as well as GIScience and Technology Education and Training. AGILE ensured that new perspectives on teaching and research in geographic information science were fully represented at the conference in order to help shaping the future European research agenda in this field, emphasizing at the same time an interest in the development and application of geospatial information technologies in all fields and disciplines.

At AGILE 2018, MedSTACH's coordinator, Prof. Phaedon Kyriakidis, presented a poster entitled "**Designing a Geospatial Technologies - Enabled Eastern Mediterranean Science, Engineering and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**". Prof. Kyriakidis had the opportunity to meet, discuss and exchange ideas with other experts in relevant fields on how geospatial technologies could be used and enhanced in a way that would be beneficial for the understanding and the valorization of Cultural Heritage within an Eastern Mediterranean context.

The short paper and poster presented at AGILE 2018 conference is provided below:

Designing a Geospatial Technologies-Enabled Eastern Mediterranean Science, Engineering and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Abstract

MedSTACH is the acronym for an AGILE-supported, Phase 1 Teaming for Excellence project, funded for one year under EU's H2020-Widespread call to design the Eastern Mediterranean Science, Engineering and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (CH). More specifically, project MedSTACH aims to establish Cyprus as an excellence hub in Archaeology and CH in the Eastern Mediterranean region and beyond, capitalising on multidisciplinary research, engineering practice, and technological innovation. To this respect, Cypriot public universities and relevant national stakeholders team up with leading international institutions to lay the groundwork towards the creation a geospatial technologies-enabled centre of excellence focusing on the study, protection, promotion and ultimately valorisation of the unique CH of Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Keywords: Teaming for Excellence, Coordination and Support Actions, Cyprus.

1 Teaming for Excellence

Despite long-standing funding mechanisms established to promote research and innovation in EU countries, significant disparities in these domains still exist among EU member states. Reasons for such disparities include among others the insufficient critical mass of science of in “low in Research & Innovation” performing (or “Widening”) countries, as well as the lack of centres of excellence having sufficient competence to strategically lead such countries towards innovative growth.

The Teaming Widespread call of the H2020 EU Framework Programme 2016-2017 aims at reducing research and innovation-related disparities between EU member states by supporting the creation of new centres of excellence (CoE), or the upgrade existing ones. Teaming-funded CoEs should be based in “Widening” countries, and should include as key partners leading EU-based research institutions.

Teaming projects should be aligned with the Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Widening country applying for funding, and should convincingly demonstrate the potential for sustainable research excellence. As Teaming projects encompass coordination and support actions, eligible actions include, among others, networking, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies. Successful Teaming projects will be receiving funding up to 15 million euros for a period of 5-7 years, with the requirement of an equal amount of national co-funding.

2 The MedSTACH project

MedSTACH is an AGILE supported, Phase 1 Teaming project, aiming to establish Cyprus as an excellence hub in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (CH) in the Eastern Mediterranean region, capitalising on multidisciplinary scientific research, engineering practice, and technological innovation. MedSTACH's mission is the development of the necessary scientific and technological environment for advancing the state-of-the-art in (geospatial) technology-enabled research in Archaeology and CH, as well as related

applications/services in Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean region, Europe and beyond.

MedSTACH's mission is fully aligned with the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus (Figure 1), as it responds to the need for the study, protection, promotion and ultimately valorisation of Cyprus's unique CH, as well as the development of alternative forms of specialised (thematic) tourism, e.g., cultural tourism.

Figure 1: Horizontal and sectoral priorities of the Smart Specialization Strategy for Cyprus; purple and green colors denote priorities addressed by MedSTACH.



Source: Smart Specialization Strategy for Cyprus, Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development, Cyprus.

The MedSTACH consortium includes the Cyprus University of Technology (Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics) as project coordinator, the University of Cyprus (Archaeological Research Unit), as well as the key national stakeholders and policy makers of the island responsible for CH management, the Department of Antiquities, and for the promotion of Cyprus's touristic product, the Cyprus Tourism Organization. The Cypriot institutions join forces towards sustainable research and innovation excellence with two

AGILE 2018 – Lund, June 12-15, 2018

renowned international institutions ranked among the region's and world's leaders in the field of archaeology and CH research and education: the Institute of Archaeology of the University College London (UCL) and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH). The MedSTACH consortium constitutes a first-ever established alliance of this scale in Cyprus for archaeology and cultural heritage, both in terms of the number and diversity of partners involved, as well as the duration of their engagement in such a long-term joint venture.

Apart from the consortium members, support for the Phase I MedSTACH proposal, was also provided by several relevant entities/institutions shown below (Figure 2), including AGILE. This list is expected to grow further prior to the Phase 2 proposal submission in November 2018.

Figure 2: MedSTACH's Phase I supporters

No.	Organization	Short Name	Description
1.	RoC, Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development	RoC	Public Authority responsible for European Programmes
2.	UNESCO Cyprus National Commission	UNESCO-Cyprus	UNESCO Representatives
3.	Association of Cypriot Archaeologists	ACA	Archaeologist
4.	Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber	ETEK	Engineers
5.	Center for Virtual Arts & Research	CVAR	Private Centre
6.	Committee of Missing Person	CMP	Government
7.	Cyprus University of Technology	CUT	Academia
8.	University of Cyprus	UCY	Academia
9.	University College London	UCL	Academia
10.	Computer Applications in Archaeology (Ca)	CAA-Ca	Regional representatives of CAA
11.	National Hellenic Research Foundation	NHRF	Public Centre
12.	Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe	AGILE	European Association

3 MedSTACH's conceptual design

The main activities of the proposed Centre of Excellence in relation to its research thematic priorities are encapsulated in the following Key Research Domains (KRDs) shown in Figure 3, covering multiple facets of archaeological inquiry and CH priorities:

- Heritage Prospection
- Material Characterization/Artifacts Studies
- Spatial Analysis
- Built Heritage Study & Protection

These KRDs will be supported by the Heritage Information Technology and Computation (ITC) Unit, which will constitute the technical backbone for the Centre, both in terms of data used for conducting research, as well as in terms of

services and products for the scientific community and broader public (e.g. digital archiving and database management, ontologies and metadata creation, web services).

Figure 3: MedSTACH's design



4 Expected impact

MedSTACH is expected to build critical scientific mass in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean, by connecting existing pockets of excellence in the region, overcoming local barriers and modernizing research culture. MedSTACH is also expected to foster multidisciplinary research and training activities, modernise research culture, and become a leading provider of geospatial and related services in support of archaeological research and education in the region.

As MedSTACH will dynamically promote excellence in relevant research fields, it is expected to enhance Cyprus's role as a pole of attraction for scientists and researchers from the Eastern Mediterranean region and the rest of the world, while promoting in a sustainable way smart specialisation and new job creation.

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Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (2015) *Smart Specialization Strategy for Cyprus Technical Report*, Nicosia. [Online] Available from: http://www.dgepcd.gov.cy/dgepcd/dgepcd.nsf/page44_en/page44_en?OpenDocument [Accessed 10th November 2016].

Designing a Geospatial Technologies-Enabled Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Ph. Kyriakidis, A. Agapiou, V. Lysandrou

21st Conference on Geo-Information Science
12-15 June 2018, Lund, Sweden

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OUR HERITAGE
WHERE THE PAST
MEETS THE FUTURE

TEAMING for Excellence

Significant disparities in terms of research and innovation still exist among EU member states, due to, among other reasons, the insufficient critical mass of science in 'low in Research & Innovation' performing (or 'Widening') countries, as well as the lack of centres of excellence having sufficient competence to strategically lead such countries towards innovative growth. The H2020 Teaming for Excellence Widespread programme aims at reducing research and innovation-related disparities between EU member states by supporting the creation of new centres of excellence (CoE) or the upgrade of existing ones.

Teaming projects should:

- be based in the "Widening" country and include as key partners leading EU-based research institutions;
- be aligned with the Smart Specialisation Strategy of the "Widening" country;
- convincingly demonstrate the potential for sustainable research excellence;
- encompass primarily coordination and support actions, such as networking, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies.

Successful (Phase 2) Teaming projects will be receiving funding up to 15 million euros for a period of 5-7 years, with the requirement of an equal amount of national co-funding

The MedSTACH Project

MedSTACH is the acronym for an AGILE-supported Teaming Phase 1 project (one year duration) aiming to design a Cyprus-based Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (CH).



Figure 1. MedSTACH's geographical scope.

MedSTACH's mission encompasses the development of the necessary scientific and technological environment for advancing the state-of-the-art in (geospatial) technology-enabled research in Archaeology and CH, as well as related applications/services in Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean region, Europe and beyond. MedSTACH's mission responds to the need for the study, protection, promotion and ultimately valorisation of the region's unique CH, as well as the development of thematic (cultural) tourism.

- The MedSTACH consortium includes:
- the Cyprus University of Technology (Dept. of Civil Engineering and Geomatics) as project coordinator, and the University of Cyprus (Archaeological Research Unit);
 - Cyprus's key national stakeholders and policy makers responsible for CH management, the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, and for the promotion of the island's touristic product, the Cyprus Tourism Organization, and
 - two renowned international institutions ranked among the leaders in the field of archaeology and CH research and education: the Institute of Archaeology of the University College London (UCL) and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (FORTH).
- MedSTACH was ranked first out of 208 proposals submitted to the 2017 Teaming Phase 1 call, attaining a perfect score (15/15, excellent).

MedSTACH's Conceptual Design

- MedSTACH's Research and Innovation Core (Figure 2, left) encompasses four Key Research Domains (KRDs) -- archaeological prospection, spatial analysis & geocomputation, material characterisation, as well as built heritage protection -- covering multiple facets of archaeological inquiry and CH priorities. KRDs are supported by the Heritage Informatics Unit, which constitutes MedSTACH's information technologies backbone.
- MedSTACH's Stakeholders (Figure 2, right) involve all components of the quadruple helix model to responsible research and innovation; namely, academic and research institutions, industry and the private sector, policy-makers, and the broader society.
- MedSTACH's Development and Engagement Hub (Figure 2, center) materialises links between MedSTACH's Research and Innovation Core and MedSTACH's stakeholders, encompassing actions that range from engineering applications and services, digital products, tourism and regional development, to research promotion and entrepreneurship.

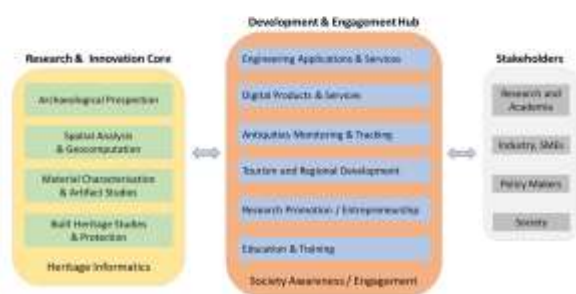


Figure 2. Fictional representation of MedSTACH's conceptual design.

MedSTACH will be governed by a board of directors, be advised by an external think tank, and develop, within the realm of 7 years, its own research and dissemination office, financial and planning office, as well as other administrative units supporting more than 50 full time researchers.

Expected Impact

- Build critical scientific mass in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean, by connecting existing pockets of excellence in the region, overcoming local barriers and modernizing research culture.
- Foster multidisciplinary research and training activities, modernise research culture, and become a leading provider of geospatial and related services in support of archaeological research and education in the region.
- Enhance Cyprus's role as a pole of attraction for scientists and researchers from the Eastern Mediterranean region and the rest of the world, while promoting in a sustainable way smart specialisation and new job creation.

References

- European Commission, Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-17. http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-intro_en.pdf
- Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (2015) Smart Specialization Strategy for Cyprus Technical Report, Nicosia. http://www.dgepcd.gov.cy/dgepcd/dgepcd.nsf/page44_en/page44_en?OpenDocument

Acknowledgments

The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) under grant agreement No. 763635, Work programme H2020 under "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation", call: H2020-WIDESPREAD-04-2017 Teaming Phase 1 (Coordination and support action).

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6. 37th Annual CAARI Archaeological Workshop

The 37th Annual CAARI Archaeological Workshop was organized on Saturday 16th June, 2018 by Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, which is located in Nicosia (Cyprus), in collaboration with two members of the MedSTACH's consortium, the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus and the Department of Antiquities. The workshop comprised of a series of lectures highlighting and promoting current archaeological work that is undertaken in Cyprus by various foreign archaeological missions, archaeologists from the Department of Antiquities and the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus.

MedSTACH Project was presented by members of the Archaeological Research Unit team, with a poster entitled “**Designing a Science and Technology Center of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean**” (full reference: Ph. Kyriakidis, A. Agapiou, V. Lysandrou, G. Leventis, N. Kyriakides, V. Kassianidou, G. Pappasavvas, M. Dikomitou-Eliadou, A. Charalambous, T. Moutsiou, M. Ieronymidou, D. Pilides, G. Philotheou, A. Kaldeli, P. Pantelides, A. Bevan, M. Altaweel, D. Nenova, A. Sarris, N. Papadopoulos, J. Donati, Designing a Science and Technology Center of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean, The 37th Annual CAARI Archaeological Workshop, Nicosia, Cyprus, June 16, 2018).

The poster is given below:

Designing a Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean

Ph. Kyriakidis^{1,2}, A. Agapiou¹, V. Lysandrou¹, N. Kyriakides¹, G. Leventis¹, V. Kassianidou¹, G. Papasavvas¹, M. Dikomitou-Eladou², A. Charalambous³, T. Moutsiou⁴, M. Ieronymidou⁴, D. Pliides⁵, A. Kaldeli⁶, P. Pantelides⁴, A. Bevan⁷, M. Altaweel⁸, D. Nenova⁹, A. Sarri¹⁰, J. Donati¹¹, N. Papadopoulos¹²

¹Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics, Cyprus University of Technology; ²Contact info: phk@cytech.edu.cy
³Archaeological Research Unit, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus; ⁴Department of Antiquities of Cyprus;
⁵Cyprus Tourism Organisation; ⁶Institute of Archaeology, University College London;
⁷Laboratory of Geophysical – Satellite Remote Sensing & Archaeo-environment, Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas;

CAARI
16 June 2018, Nicosia, Cyprus

OUR HERITAGE
WHERE THE PAST
MEETS THE FUTURE

TEAMING for Excellence

Significant disparities in terms of research and innovation still exist among EU member states, due to, among other reasons, the insufficient critical mass of science in “low in Research & Innovation” performing (or “Widening”) countries, as well as the lack of centres of excellence having sufficient competence to strategically lead such countries towards innovative growth. The H2020 Teaming for Excellence Widespread programme aims at reducing research and innovation-related disparities between EU member states by supporting the creation of new centres of excellence (CoE), or the upgrade of existing ones.

Teaming projects should:

- be based in the “Widening” country and include as key partners leading EU-based research institutions,
- be aligned with the Smart Specialisation Strategy of the “Widening” country,
- convincingly demonstrate the potential for sustainable research excellence,
- encompass primarily coordination and support actions, such as, networking, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies.

Successful (Phase 2) Teaming projects will be receiving funding up to 15 million euros for a period of 5-7 years, with the requirement of an equal amount of national co-funding

The MedSTACH Project

MedSTACH is the acronym for an AGLE-supported Teaming Phase 1 project (one year duration) aiming to design a Cyprus-based Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (CH).



Figure 1: MedSTACH's Geographical frame.

MedSTACH's mission encompasses the development of the necessary scientific and technological environment for advancing the state-of-the-art in (geospatial) technology-enabled research in Archaeology and CH, as well as related applications/services in Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean region, Europe and beyond. MedSTACH's mission responds to the need for the study, protection, promotion and ultimately valorisation of the region's unique CH, as well as the development of thematic (cultural) tourism.

The MedSTACH consortium includes:

- the Cyprus University of Technology (Dept. of Civil Engineering and Geomatics) as project coordinator and the University of Cyprus (Archaeological Research Unit),
- Cyprus's key national stakeholders and policy makers responsible for CH management, the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, and for the promotion of the island's touristic product, the Cyprus Tourism Organization, and
- two renowned international institutions ranked among the leaders in the field of archaeology and CH research and education: the Institute of Archaeology of the University College London (UCL) and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH).

MedSTACH was ranked first out of 208 proposals submitted to the 2017 Teaming Phase 1 call, attaining a perfect score (15/15, excellent).

Cyprus University of Technology

University of Cyprus
Archaeological Research Unit

UCL

DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
CYPRUS

CYPRUS TOURISM ORGANISATION

FORTH
FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY - HELLAS

MedSTACH
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



Figure 2: Personal representation of MedSTACH's conceptual design.

MedSTACH will be governed by a board of directors, be advised by an external think tank, and develop, within the realm of 7 years, its own research and dissemination office, financial and planning office, as well as other administrative units supporting more than 50 full time researchers.

Expected Impact

- Build critical scientific mass in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean, by connecting existing pockets of excellence in the region, overcoming local barriers and modernizing research culture.
- Foster multidisciplinary research and training activities, modernize research culture, and become a leading provider of geospatial and related services in support of archaeological research and education in the region.
- Enhance Cyprus's role as a pole of attraction for scientists and researchers from the Eastern Mediterranean region and the rest of the world, while promoting in a sustainable way smart specialisation and new job creation.

References

- European Commission, Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-17. http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-cfro_en.pdf
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Acknowledgments

This project has received funding from the European Union's "Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" under grant agreement No 763635. Work programme H2020 under "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation", call H2020-WIDESPREAD-04-2017 Teaming Phase 1 (Coordination and support action).

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7. 3rd Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology – GR conference: *Spreading Excellence in Computer Applications for Archaeology and Culural Heritage*

The third CAA-GR conference was held at the Cyprus University of Technology, in Limassol, Cyprus, from Tuesday 19th to Wednesday 20th June, 2018. The main event was preceded by workshops on Monday, 18th June, 2018.

CAA (Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology) is the premier international conference for all aspects of computing, quantitative methods and digital applications in Archaeology. With a history going back to 1972, CAA encourages participation from scholars, specialists and experts in the fields of archaeology, history, cultural heritage, digital scholarship, GIS, mathematics, semantic web, informatics and members of other disciplines that complement and extend the interests of CAA.

The Greek chapter of CAA International (CAA-GR) was established in 2012, in order to develop a forum for discussing practical, theoretical and methodological issues involved in the increasing number of computer applications in Greek archaeological and cultural heritage contexts, and sharing the results of related research. CAA-GR aims to encourage communication between different disciplines, to provide a survey of present work in the field, to stimulate discussion and further develop relevant research areas. For these reasons, it welcomes archaeologists with expertise from a variety of disciplines in the field of social sciences, life sciences, engineering and arts, actively involved in computer applications in the cultural heritage domain, conservators, mathematicians and computer scientists.

MedSTACH Project was presented by its coordinator Professor Ph. Kyriakidis, with an oral presentation entitled “**Designing a Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean**” and a poster presentation with the same title (full reference: Ph. Kyriakidis, A. Agapiou, V. Lysandrou, G. Leventis, N. Kyriakides, V. Kassianidou, G. Papasavvas, M. Dikomitou-Eliadou, A. Charalambous, T. Moutsiou, M. Ieronymidou, D. Pilides, G. Philotheou, A. Kaldeli, P. Pantelides, A. Bevan, M. Altaweel, D. Nenova, A. Sarris, N. Papadopoulos, J. Donati, Designing a Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean, 3rd Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology – GR conference: *Spreading Excellence in Computer Applications for Archaeology and Culural Heritage*, Limassol, Cyprus, June 19-20, 2018).

Designing a Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean

Abstract

MedSTACH is the acronym for a Phase 1 Teaming for Excellence H2020 project, aiming to design the Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. MedSTACH's mission encompasses the development of the necessary scientific and technological environment for the advancement of the state-of-the-art in archaeology and cultural heritage research and related applications/services in Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean region, and beyond. To this respect, Cypriot public universities and relevant national stakeholders team up with leading international institutions to lay the groundwork towards the creation of a Centre of Excellence focusing on the study, protection, promotion and ultimately valorisation of the unique cultural heritage wealth of Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region. MedSTACH is expected to foster excellence in cultural heritage research and applications, contribute to the development of alternative forms of thematic (cultural) tourism, while promoting in a sustainable way smart specialisation and new job creation.

The poster is given below:

Designing a Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean

Ph. Kyriakidis^{1,2}, A. Agapiou¹, V. Lysandrou¹, N. Kyriakides¹, G. Leventis¹, V. Kassianidou¹, G. Pappasavvas¹, M. Dikomitou-Eladou², A. Charalambous³, T. Moutsios⁴, M. Ieronymidou⁴, D. Pliides⁵, A. Kaldeli⁶, P. Pantelides⁴, A. Bevan⁷, M. Altaweel⁸, D. Nenova⁹, A. Sarri¹⁰, J. Donati¹¹, N. Papadopoulos¹²

¹Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics, Cyprus University of Technology; ²Contact info: phk@cytech.edu.cy
³Archaeological Research Unit, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus; ⁴Department of Antiquities of Cyprus;
⁵Cyprus Tourism Organisation; ⁶Institute of Archaeology, University College London;
⁷Laboratory of Geophysical – Satellite Remote Sensing & Archaeo-environment, Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas;

Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology
19-20 June, Limassol, Cyprus




TEAMING for Excellence

Significant disparities in terms of research and innovation still exist among EU member states, due to, among other reasons, the insufficient critical mass of science in “low in Research & Innovation” performing (or “Widening”) countries, as well as the lack of centres of excellence having sufficient competence to strategically lead such countries towards innovative growth. The H2020 Teaming for Excellence Widespread programme aims at reducing research and innovation-related disparities between EU member states by supporting the creation of new centres of excellence (CoE), or the upgrade of existing ones.

Teaming projects should:

- be based in the “Widening” country and include as key partners leading EU-based research institutions,
- be aligned with the Smart Specialisation Strategy of the “Widening” country,
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MedSTACH's Conceptual Design

- MedSTACH's Research and Innovation Core (Figure 2, left) encompasses four Key Research Domains (KRDs) – archaeological prospection, spatial analysis & geocomputation, material characterisation, as well as built heritage protection – covering multiple facets of archaeological inquiry and CH priorities. KRDs are supported by the Heritage Informatics Unit, which constitutes MedSTACH's information technologies backbone.
- MedSTACH's Stakeholders (Figure 2, right) involve all components of the quadruple helix model to responsible research and innovation; namely, academic and research institutions, industry and the private sector, policy-makers, and the broader society.
- MedSTACH's Development and Engagement Hub (Figure 2, centre) materialises links between MedSTACH's Research and Innovation Core and MedSTACH's stakeholders, encompassing actions that range from engineering applications and services, digital products, tourism and regional development, to research promotion and entrepreneurship.

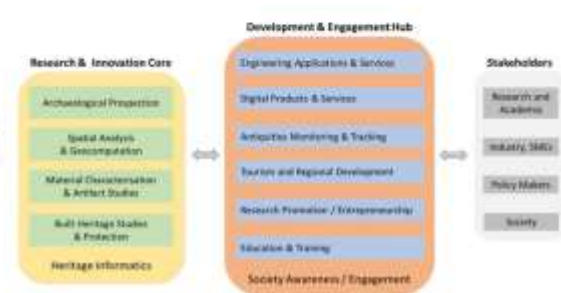


Figure 2. Pictorial representation of MedSTACH's conceptual design.

The MedSTACH Project

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MedSTACH was ranked first out of 208 proposals submitted to the 2017 Teaming Phase 1 call, attaining a perfect score (15/15, excellent).

MedSTACH will be governed by a board of directors, be advised by an external think tank, and develop, within the realm of 7 years, its own research and dissemination office, financial and planning office, as well as other administrative units supporting more than 50 full time researchers.

Expected Impact

- Build critical scientific mass in Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean, by connecting existing pockets of excellence in the region, overcoming local barriers and modernizing research culture.
- Foster multidisciplinary research and training activities, modernize research culture, and become a leading provider of geospatial and related services in support of archaeological research and education in the region.
- Enhance Cyprus's role as a pole of attraction for scientists and researchers from the Eastern Mediterranean region and the rest of the world, while promoting in a sustainable way smart specialisation and new job creation.

References

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- Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (2015) Smart Specialization Strategy for Cyprus Technical Report, Nicosia. http://www.dgepcod.gov.cy/dgepcod/dgepcod.nsf/page44_en/page44_en?OpenDocument

Acknowledgments

This project has received funding from the European Union's "Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" under grant agreement No. 733623. Work programme H2020 under "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation", call H2020-WIDESPREAD-04-2017 Teaming Phase 1 (Coordination and support action).

www.medstach.eu



8. 6th International Euro-Mediterranean Conference (EuroMed 2018)

It should be mentioned that after the end of Phase I (i.e. August 2018) the MedSTACH project will continue its dissemination activity. Already the MedSTACH project is a supporter of the EuroMED 2018 conference, one of the largest international conferences held every two years relevant to digital heritage.



The topic of the EuroMED 2018 conference is as follow:

EuroMED 2018 theme

Protecting, preserving and presenting our Cultural Heritage are frequently interpreted as change management and/or change the behavior of the society. Joint European and international research produces a scientific background and support for such a change. We are living in a period characterized by rapid and remarkable changes in the environment, in the society and in technology. Natural change, war conflicts and man-made changes, including climate, as well as technological and societal change, form an ever-moving and colorful stage and a challenge for the society. Close cooperation between professionals, the policy makers and authorities internationally, is necessary for research, development and technology in the field of cultural heritage.

Scientific projects in the area of cultural heritage have received national, European Union or UNESCO funding for more than thirty years. Through the financial support and cooperation, major results have been achieved and published in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings with the support of professionals from many countries. The European Conferences on cultural heritage research and development and in particular the biannual EuroMed conference have become regular milestones on the never-ending journey of discovery in the search for new knowledge of our common history and its protection and preservation for the generations to come. They also provide a unique opportunity to present and review results, and to draw new inspiration.

The agenda of this unique conference will include hundreds of excellent oral and poster presentations, as well as workshops and demonstrations from academia and industry, reflecting the wide scope of our work in the area of cultural heritage. We are expecting policy makers, professionals, students and delegates from more than 60 countries of the world to attend this special Euro-Mediterranean conference which is dedicated to the protection, preservation and e-documentation of the Cultural Heritage.

The ultimate aim of the 6th EuroMed conference will be to bring together as many stakeholders as possible from different backgrounds in order to achieve a high level of mutual understanding of the needs, the requirements and the technical means of meeting them. Therefore, our common goal is to focus on interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research on tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage, the use of cutting edge technologies for the protection, preservation, conservation, massive digitalisation and visualization/presentation of the Cultural Heritage content (archeological sites, artifacts, monuments, libraries, archives, museums, etc). At the same time, the event is intended to cover topics of research ready for exploitation, demonstrating the acceptability of new sustainable approaches and new technologies by the user community, SME's, owners, managers and conservators of cultural patrimony.

It is very important that policy makers and a wide public are involved in management of the cultural heritage, and it is useful to inform European citizens about recent developments and scientific achievements in this area. The entire poster exhibition as well as special conference sessions will be dedicated to awareness (outreach) of the public in the whole field of Cultural Heritage.

Envisioning MedSTACH, the Eastern Mediterranean Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Ph. Kyriakidis^{1*}, A. Agapiou¹, V. Lysandrou¹, N. Kyriakides¹, G. Leventis¹, V. Kassianidou², G. Papasavvas², M. Dikomitou-Eliadou², A. Charalambous², T. Moutsiou², M. Ieronymidou³, D. Pilides³, A. Kaldeli³, P. Pantelides⁴, A. Bevan⁵, M. Altaweel⁵, D. Nenova⁵, A. Sarris⁶, J. Donati⁶, N. Papadopoulos⁶

¹ Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics, Cyprus University of Technology

² Archaeological Research Unit, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus

³ Department of Antiquities of Cyprus

⁴ Cyprus Tourism Organisation

⁵ Institute of Archaeology, University College London

⁶ Laboratory of Geophysical – Satellite Remote Sensing & Archaeo-environment, Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas

The European project MedSTACH aims to establish a Cyprus-based leading Centre of Excellence for archaeology and cultural heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean region, capitalising on multidisciplinary research and technological innovation. MedSTACH's mission is the development of the necessary scientific and technological environment for advancing the state-of-the-art in archaeology and cultural heritage research in Cyprus, the Eastern Mediterranean region, and beyond. MedSTACH's mission is fully aligned with the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Cyprus, as it responds to the need for the study, protection, promotion and valorisation of Cyprus's unique archaeological wealth, and the development of alternative forms of thematic tourism related to cultural heritage.

MedSTACH's design encompasses a research and innovation core comprising the key domains of Archaeological Exploration, Spatial Analysis and Geocomputation, Material Analysis and Artefact Studies, Built Heritage Study and Protection, as well as Heritage Informatics. Synergies among the above domains constitute the modern interdisciplinary-technological approach to addressing key questions in cultural heritage research. MedSTACH's interface with its stakeholders – Academic and Research Institutions, Private Sector, Policy Makers and Non-Governmental Organisations, as well as the broader Society – is materialised through MedSTACH's Development and Engagement Hub. This interface consists of thematic offices coordinating targeted research actions encompassing, among others, the development of relevant Applications, Products and Services, as well as Coordination and Support actions.

The envisioned MedSTACH Centre of Excellence is expected to play a leading role towards understanding, protecting, promoting, and ultimately valorising the unique cultural heritage capital of Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean region, enrich the touristic product of Cyprus, while promoting smart specialisation and new job creation.

Appendix I (Selected photos from MedSTACH's conference presentations)

1. CAA International 2018



Prof. Kyriakidis presenting the MedSTACH project at CAA 2018

2. Biennial of Urban and Architectural Heritage 2018



The Exhibition Hall, House of Culture, Rethymno

3. AGILE 2018



The venue of the conference: Lund University

4. CAARI 2018



Dr Andreas Charalambous and MedSTACH at the 37th Annual CAARI Archaeological Workshop

5. CAA-Gr 2018



Phaedon Kyriakidis presents MedSTACH project to conference participants