

ATLANTIKWALL EUROPE:

A short introduction to the AWE-webinar Data Library

Digitalisation and inventory of Atlantic Wall heritage: finding common ground for European knowledge exchange

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The main question on this webinar is:

What is the added value of exchange of Atlantikwall related inventories between (European) countries, institutions & persons?

The main focus today is not the harmonization of inventories (e.g. different GIS systems), and how this could be realized (technically).

It is interesting though to investigate how we can learn the most from each other, exchange information and inventories and how we could do this efficiently without getting stuck in tough technical issues.

'Data library' can include a wide variety of things:

- The inventory of physical Atlantikwall remains in the landscape
- The inventory of archaeological ('disappeared') Atlantikwall remains
- The inventory of everything that was ever built and installed, even without archaeological remains
- The inventory of pictures taken during, or after the war
- The inventory of (archival) documents of all kinds
- The inventory of artefacts / collection pieces from the war.
- Oral history and testimonies, intangible heritage
- Or even the exchange of methodologies (re-use, preservation, protection, nature development, restoration techniques, spatial management, the management of collections etc.)
- ...

It is not our intention to bring all this information together right now, but:

What is the use of investing energy in this?

Where are the problems or obstacles?

What could be better organised?

Should we agree upon certain standards?

What are useful tools to exchange information?

Are there already any existing tools / exchange platforms that can already be used or adjusted?

Is it useful to organize something at European level?

We just want to plant a first seed with this webinar and exchange thoughts about it...

During this webinar we will give some first ideas, and show two examples of concrete inventory projects, who will also take into account the above questions.

Within the break-out room sessions you can discuss with us about:

The added value of data library (WHY should we do it?). What is it useful for?

OR

European cooperation in inventorisation (HOW should we do it?). Do we need to agree about certain standards? Do we want a full harmonised structure? What role can Europe play in this?

A second question on this webinar is:

How can we close ties between professionals and voluntary historians?

A lot of 'data library' is in private hands...

A lot of valuable information and knowledge resides with so-called 'amateur' archaeologists and historians who spend a lot of free time on the subject.

The exchange of information is not always going smoothly or with full mutual trust.

How can we better valorise the added value of the knowledge and scientific information that all these enthusiastic volunteers have?

How can we seek mutual rapprochement?

What are the expectations of the volunteers towards the professionals, and vice versa?

What opportunities for more cooperation do the volunteers see themselves?

What are the main obstacles?

Are there any good examples of such collaboration?

We will present an example from another sector (metal detectorists & archaeologists): the Medea-project + one of the break-out rooms is devoted to this topic



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