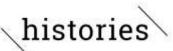
MEDEA

An example of collaboration between volunteers (metal detectorists) and professionals (archaeologists)

Webinar Atlantikwall Europe – 'Data Library' 20 May 2021

Pieterjan Deckers (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
& Katelijne Nolet (Histories vzw)









Background

- Metal-detecting in Flanders (Belgium) allowed since 2016
- Prior to 2016: grey area and mistrust
- Motivations for MEDEA
 - Many detectorist collections with great scientific potential
 - Lack of reporting and accessibility

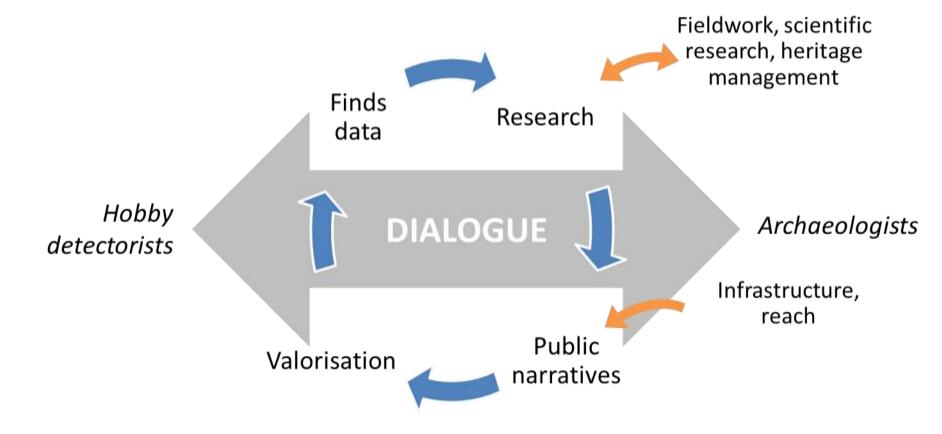


Everbeek Roman silver hoard (found in 2010)

Background

Portable Antiquities Scheme www.finds.org.uk

A participatory approach: the virtuous cycle of citizen science



The MEDEA Project

Interdisciplinary project, 2014-17

- Archaeology (HARP-VUB) PI prof. dr. D.Tys;
 coordinator P. Deckers
- User research, human-centered design (Imec-SMIT, VUB)
- Data standards > data model (PACKED vzw)
- Development (WeConnectData)
- International advisory board

Activities:

- Research infrastructure
- Outreach activities













Online Platform

 Scientific tool: persistent online publication of qualitative basic finds data

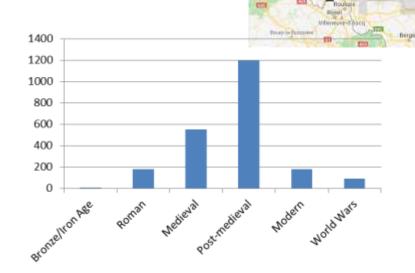
Collaborative: self-recording by detectorists,

additional data from experts

Current status:

2870 finds

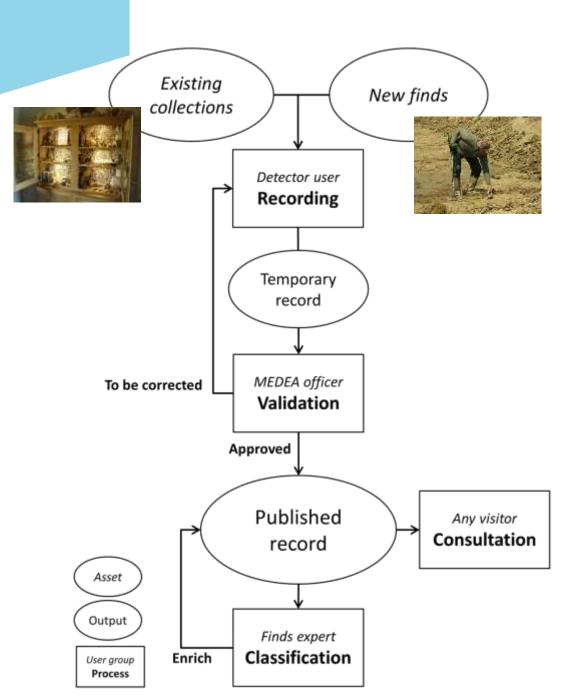
> 400 registered users

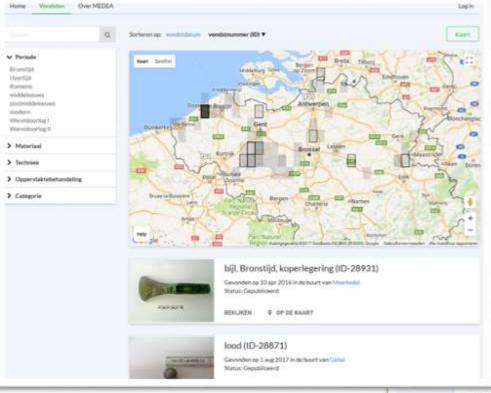


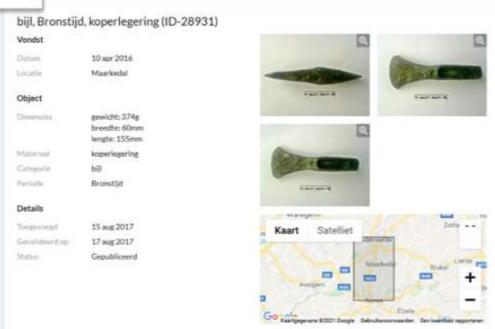
Workflow

Public user roles:

- Detectorist
- Finds expert
- Researcher
- Registrator
- (Validator)







offecties Over MEDEA

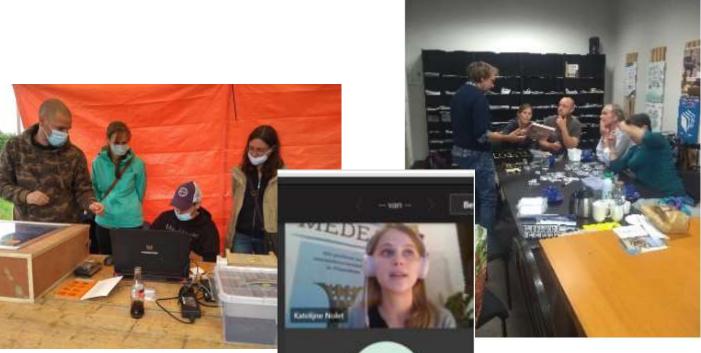
www.vondsten.be

The MEDEA Project

Since 2019: coordinated by Histories vzw

- Funding by Flanders Heritage Agency
- Primary goal: outreach and education







MEDEA

Current Projects

- Medieval excavated metalwork:
 'Middeleeuws Metaal', with a.o. PAN, 2020-2021
- WWII public history: 'Onder de Radar'
- Exhibition 'Bruges around AD 1000'

• ...





www.onderderadar.be



Challenges

- Obstacles to self-recording
- Remaining trust gap between heritage professionals and detecting community
- Promote database as key tool in citizen science feedback cycle
- Limited funding



European context

- European Public Finds Recording Network
- Exchanging experiences > developing vision and best practice
- Facebook: @publicfinds











Löytösampo Fyndsampo FindSampo



European Journal of Archaeology 2020, page 1 of 21

European Journal of Archaeology 23 (2020)

Towards a Cooperative Approach to Hobby Metal Detecting: The European Public Finds Recording Network (EPFRN) Vision Statement

Andres S. Dobat¹ ©, Pieterjan Deckers¹ ©, Stijn Heeren² ©, Michael Lewis³, Suzie Thomas⁴ © and Anna Wessman⁴ ©

Hobby metal detecting is a controversial subject. Legal and policy approaches differ widely across national and regional contexts, and the attitudes of archaeologists and heritage professionals towards detectorists are often polarized and based on ethical or emotive arguments. We, the European Public Finds Recording Network (EPFRN), have implemented collaborative approaches towards detectorist communities in our respective contexts (Denmark, England and Wales, Finland, Flanders, and the Netherlands). Although our motivations are affected by our national circumstances, we have our work on an agreed set of goals, practices, and visions. This article presents the EPFRN's vision statement and provides insight into its underlying thoughts. We hope to create a debate on how to develop best practice approaches that acknowledge the inherent challenges of hobby metal detecting while realizing its potential.

¹School of Culture and Society, University of Aarhus, Denmark

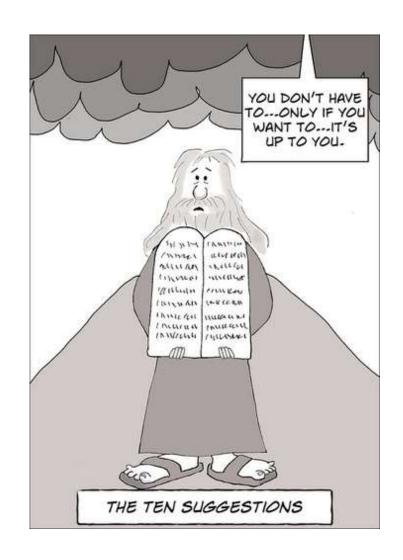
²Faculty of Humanities, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands

³Portable Antiquities Scheme, The British Museum, London, UK

⁴Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki, Finland

Lessons learned

- sustainability
- online/offline: the virtuous cycle works on different scales
- create narratives, not data
- data quality vs quantity
- principles vs practice
- contribution vs co-creation







katelijne.nolet@historiesvzw.be pieterjan.deckers@vub.be







