Archaeometry and Archaeology of Ancient Glass Production as a Source for Ancient Technology and Trade of Raw Materials

Fact Sheet

Project Information

ARCHGLASS
Grant agreement ID: 240750
Status
Closed project
Start date
1 November 2009
End date
31 October 2014

Funded under
FP7-IDEAS-ERC
Overall budget
€ 954 960
EU contribution
€ 954 960

Hosted by
KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT
LEUVEN
Belgium

Objective

In this project, innovative techniques to reconstruct ancient economies are developed and new insights in the trade and processing of mineral raw materials are gained based on interdisciplinary archaeological and archaeometrical research. An innovative methodology for and a practical provenance database of the primary origin of natron glass from the Hellenistic-Roman world will be established. The project investigates both production and consumer sites of glass raw materials using both typo-chronological and archaeometrical (isotope geochemical) study of finished glass artefacts at consumer sites as well as mineralogical and chemical characterisation of raw glass and mineral resources at primary production sites. Suitable sand resources in the locations described by ancient authors will be identified through geological prospecting on the basis of literature review and field
work. Sand and flux (natron) deposits will be mineralogically and geochemically characterised and compared to the results of the archaeological and geochemical investigations of the glass. Through integrated typo-chronological and archaeometrical analysis, the possible occurrence of primary production centres of raw glass outside the known locations in Syro-Palestine and Egypt, particularly in North-Africa, Italy, Spain and Gaul will be critically studied. In this way, historical, archaeological and archaeometrical data are combined, developing new interdisciplinary techniques for innovative archaeological interpretation of glass trade in the Hellenistic-Roman world.

Field of science

/social sciences/economics and business/business and management/commerce
/humanities/history and archaeology/archaeology/archaeometry

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal

ERC-2009-StG

Funding Scheme

ERC-SG - ERC Starting Grant

Host institution

KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN

Address

Oude Markt 13
3000 Leuven
Belgium

Website

Contact the organisation

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

EU contribution

€ 954 960

Principal investigator

Patrick Degryse (Prof.)

Administrative Contact

Stijn Delauré (Dr.)

Beneficiaries (1)
KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN

Belgium

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€ 954 960

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