Understanding ancient urbanism: site planning and unintended consequences of the Classic Maya city as a model

Fact Sheet

Project Information

MAYURB
Grant agreement ID: 839602

Status
Ongoing project

Start date 1 January 2020
End date 31 December 2022

Funded under
H2020-EU.1.3.2.

Overall budget
€ 231,524.16

EU contribution
€ 231,524.16

Coordinated by
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA
Italy

Project description

Ancient Maya urbanism

Objective
The main goal of MAYURB is to study ancient urbanism using the Classic Maya Period (250-900 CE) as a model to understand city inception and expansion through time, while considering the diverse actors involved in its planning, use and transformation. The urban fabric of Palenque, Mexico, will be assessed with an interdisciplinary approach that delves into the decision-making process that underlies site planning and considers the limitation imposed by location; in addition, the project ponders the influence of traditions and believes in site selection and religious buildings’ astronomical orientation. While considering the negotiation processes and power relations involved in city inception and growth, MAYURB will explore the unintended consequences of city expansion, such as urban sprawl and sanitation. The project will develop around three main axes: the construction of a GIS platform to join archaeological, architectural and morphological data and to outline the physical reality in which the ancient Maya lived. The spatial analyses performed with GIS will lead the second line of investigation: archaeological excavations at Palenque in areas where it is more likely to uncover infrastructural works and their relative chronology. The third inquiry will explore the extent of authority in site planning and the agency of other urban actors with an interdisciplinary theoretical focus that spans from urban to anthropological theory. The methodological approach and theoretical contribution developed with MAYURB aim at providing a thorough understanding of the planning process and city performance in antiquity, beyond the time period and the geographical location in question. Three unique interchange appointments between UNAM-Mexico, UNIROMA1-Italy and ZRC SAZU-Slovenia at top-level Institutions are planned to fulfill MAYURB’s objectives, while increasing the Experienced Researcher’s skills.

Field of science

/natural sciences/earth and related environmental sciences/physical geography/cartography/geographic information systems

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal

H2020-MSCA-IF-2018

Funding Scheme
Coordinator

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA

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Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

EU contribution
€ 231 524,16

Website

Contact the organisation

Partners (1)

UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE MEXICO

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Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Website

Contact the organisation

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