

# Working Group 7 Summary

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## Working Group metadata

<b>Manager: Eva Parga-Dans</b>
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<b>Room: Suseia</b>
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<b>Date: 31/01/2017</b>
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<b>Start Time: 14.45</b>
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<b>End time: 18.15</b>
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## Preliminary Summary

Working group 7 focused on different experiences of social innovation in archaeology. Four participants presented their experiences and three more briefly exposed theirs.

Vignale, A Sturgeon Story, spin off company HMS Services, Dig Ventures, Ponte Ecomuseum, exhibition at Bohusläns museum, CultureLab.

Following the presentations the discussion is based on:

- Lack of funding, looking for and exploring new ways.
- Difficulties to engage with society/communities. Importance of building a community.
- Models of heritage management. Heritage legislation. Political side.
- Concept of social innovation: empty content of concepts.
- Broadening archaeology, interdisciplinarity, connection between different fields.

## Final Summary

The archaeological sector is at the verge of collapse and new paradigms are needed. In this context, a new rhetoric of social innovation is emerging emphasizing the need to strengthen social participative community processes.

Working group 7 focused on different experiences of social innovation in archaeology, examples of how archaeology can try to generate initiatives of sustainable production. Four participants presented their experiences and three more briefly exposed theirs: Vignale, A Sturgeon Story, spin off company HMS Services, Dig Ventures, La Ponte Ecomuseum, exhibition at Bohusläns museum and CultureLab.

-Vignale project has been identified, after a SWOT analysis, as an opportunity to improve local economy while engaging the community, and perhaps as a sustainable way, but this is questioned.

-A Sturgeon Story: The Pilastris excavation project as a public archaeology experiment. Experience of different ways of social engagement, through “archaeology without digging”. Some rests of a fish called sturgeon were presumably found during excavations in 2014. There were great expectations but actually there weren't findings of sturgeon and there was a crisis. However they managed to focus on other areas of research.

-HMS: As a result of leading the CHM program of the Chad Export Project, a big archaeological project, the University of Brussels created a spin-off company (tech advances for human sciences) called Heritage Management Services HMS Services (Heritage Management Services) in 2009. It was specialized in the African market and provided cultural heritage impact assessments, promoted heritage conservation, training, helped clients conform to the laws... HMS closed in 2015 due to different funding problems.

- La Ponte ecomuseum, this project responds to the Spanish situation, to corruption and model of heritage management. It is an association of neighbors, managed by local people as a way to socialize heritage using ethnographic tools. Heritage is seen as a “common”.

Dig Ventures, English company that started in the context of collapsing economy through a successful crowdfunding. Follow the ‘open for works’ model, and thousands of people get involved.

Bohusläns museum suffered a burglary and an exhibition was made about it. It was very successful.

Culture Lab, founded in 2002, is a consultancy company specialized in raising funds from the European Commission for cultural cooperation initiatives and in project management. It has a cross-sector approach, not only focusing on heritage but on other fields of the cultural industry.

Following the presentations the discussion is based on:

- Alternatives after the fall of commercial archaeology model
- Lack of funding, looking for and exploring new ways. How funding works in institutions as the European Commission.
- Difficulties to engage with society/communities. Importance of building a community. There is no heritage without people.

- Models of heritage management. Importance of heritage legislation. Political side.
- Concept of social innovation: empty content of concepts. Social archaeology instead of social innovation.
- Broadening archaeology, interdisciplinary approach, connection between different fields, towards an open/holistic concept of heritage.