



## **BANUU – 1<sup>st</sup> Consortium Assembly Meeting** **28-05-2020**

Participants:

Name	Surname	Institution
Nicolò	Marchetti	University of Bologna
Federico	Zaina	University of Bologna
Licia	Proserpio	University of Bologna
Gabriele	Giacosa	University of Bologna
Emmanuel	Di Tommaso	University of Bologna
Çiğdem	Maner	Koç University of Istanbul
Burçu	Sarsilmaz	Koç University of Istanbul
Filiz	Yenisehirlioglu	Koç University of Istanbul
Nikos	Kontogiannis	Koç University of Istanbul
Oğuz	Tekin	Koç University of Istanbul
Oya	Özer	Koç University of Istanbul
Carlo	Lippolis	CRAST
Eleonora	Quirico	CRAST
Ester	Lopardo	CRAST
Mahmoud	Al Qaysi	University of Baghdad
Bahaa Najeem	Mahmoud	University of Baghdad
Laith Majeed	Hussein	University of Baghdad
Yasir Leftah	Al-Mansoori	University of Kufa
Muhsen	Al-Ibadi	University of Kufa
Hayder K.	Al-Hamdany	University of Kufa
Alaa J.	Al-Lami	University of Kufa
Raheem Jabbar	Dhaher	University of Qadisiyah
Mohammed Kamel	Rokan	University of Qadisiyah
Satter Abdulhasan	Jabbar	University of Qadisiyah
Abbas	Al-Hussainy	University of Qadisiyah
Asma A.	Obais	University of Qadisiyah
Ali A.	Mahdi	University of Qadisiyah
Muneer Salim Taha	Al-Badrany	University of Mosul
Yasmin Abdulkareem	Jasim	University of Mosul
Khalid Salim	Ismael	University of Mosul
Rawaa	Qasha	University of Mosul
Alaa	Salih	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq





The WP1 consortium assembly meeting of the Banuu project was held virtually via Hangouts Meet due to the impossibility to make international travels because of the Covid-19 crisis. The virtual meeting took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 at 10 h AM CET.

The meeting was opened by the project coordinator Nicolò Marchetti following the issues listed in the agenda anticipated by email to all partners.

### **1. WP1 report**

The representatives of Task force 1 on Preventive Archaeology illustrated the work conducted so far and the results achieved. Nicolò Marchetti provided an introduction on the necessity to introduce preventive archaeology in Iraq, followed by an overview of the aim of the task force and the methodology used to collect the information.

This was followed by a detailed account by Abbas Al-Hussainy from the University of Qadisiyah on the rescue archaeological excavations conducted by the SBAH and by foreign expeditions in Iraq since 1990. The other speaker of Task force 1 was Khalid Salim Ismael from the University of Mosul, who illustrated the Iraqi national legislation issued by the Iraqi state with the aim of safeguarding the archaeological sites and monuments. His analysis also underlined how the current legislation only allows state authorities or research institutes to conduct such kind of activities. Improvements are needed to upscale flexibility in order to face the challenges entailed by development through the country. Their analyses will now be merged and edited into a report about Task force 1 which is being prepared by Federico Zaina.

The representatives of Task force 2 on Cultural Heritage Management illustrated the work conducted so far and the results achieved. The task force coordinator Carlo Lippolis from CRAFT introduced the topic and highlighted the importance of creating a strong network of Iraqi public and private companies working in this field. This would facilitate students opportunity to find jobs in this field. A detailed discussion by Eleonora Quirico and Bahaa Najeem Mahmoud followed on the different types of stakeholders working in the field of Cultural Heritage Management. Over 150 among Museums, Archaeological Parks, Start-ups, NGOs and Galleries distributed all over the country have been contacted and mapped. The range of activities covered by these institutions and companies will allow students to have a wider choice for conducting internships experience. Laith Hussein from the University of Baghdad provided further details about stakeholders and he confirmed the total support of the University of Baghdad to foster students internships in the field of Cultural Heritage Management. The Task force 2 team especially stressed the importance to create relations with private companies in order to achieved the scopes of the Banuu project. The report about Task force 2 is now being prepared by Eleonora Quirico.

The representatives of Task force 3 on Cultural Tourism illustrated the work conducted so far and the results achieved. Çiğdem Maner from Koç University of Istanbul, presented the topic and underlined its importance especially in specific regions of the country such as Najaf and Kerbala where proper infrastructures to support tourism are already well developed. She especially emphasized the importance of reviving local craftsmanship as critical element of the heritage of the region and useful for tourism sector. In this regards





she suggested to fair-trades to support them. She also proposed to use the concept of ecological tourism as well. In particular, she suggested to include wetland, water canals and rivers and the tradition of the rural populations in the tourism paths. This particularly applies not only to the Najaf region but also to most of southern Iraq. Hayder Al-Hamdany from the University of Kufa provided detailed information on the touristic sector in the Najaf and neighboring regions (i.e. the number of tourists coming yearly, the number of hotels and restaurants and the main reason for tourists to come to Iraq at the moment). Çiğdem Maner will now prepare her report on the analyses by Task force 3.

## **2. Iraqi partnership agreements and institutional bank accounts**

The University of Bologna as Lead Partner has already sent to all the partners the Partnership Agreements to be signed by the legal representatives of each Institution. During the meeting, the Coordinator highlighted the main conditions for the management of the grant:

- Staff costs will be directly transferred to the Partner Organizations which will manage them according to their internal administration rules;
- Travel and Cost of stay, Equipment and Subcontracting will be managed by the European Partners on behalf of the whole project in order to facilitate and speed up the implementation of the actions;

In full accordance with all the partners, it was decided that the final date for the submission of the signed Partnership Agreements to the University of Bologna as Lead Partner is, ideally, the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.

The state of the process of opening the institutional bank accounts for the Iraqi partner Universities, as required mandatorily by the EU, has been discussed among the project partners. Meetings between the Iraqi Universities and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq (MOHESR) will take place in the next weeks in order to find a viable solution as soon as possible. This issue is being discussed and faced by all the members of the Project Consortium as a matter of urgency and importance. In particular, Dr. Alaa Salih from MOHESR proposes to arrange a meeting between the Iraqi Universities and the Head of the National Bank of Iraq. The Iraqi partners will discuss about this opportunity after the Consortium Assembly Meeting and take a decision among them.

## **3. Future mobility assessment in view of the global health emergency**

The third point regarded the organization of the project mobility during the next months in the light of the global health emergency. The project Coordinator Nicolò Marchetti underlined how currently it is not possible to foresee how the situation will develop next fall and winter. Therefore, in full accordance with all the partners, it was decided to postpone the training activities in Italy (Bologna and Turin) and Turkey (Istanbul) to the beginning of 2021. A final rescheduling of the trainings will be provided as soon as possible.

With regards to the WP2 meeting to be held in mid-November 2020 in Bologna, the Consortium agreed to take a final decision by the end of next August. The hypothesis to organize the meeting through online platforms was rejected due to the importance of the results and issues to be discussed. The same deadline will apply for the eventual organization of the meeting in Kufa actually foreseen in January 2021.





#### **4. Any other issue**

The project coordinator, Nicolò Marchetti presented a draft of the Banuu project logo to the Consortium. This was discussed and several project members including Laith Hussein from the University of Baghdad, Abbas Al-Hussainy from the University of Qadisiyah and Khalid Salim Ismael from the University of Mosul provided their feedback and suggestions to improve it.

A final decision on the Banuu logo will be taken in the next week and the logo will be made available on the project website and the social networks.

No further issue was proposed for discussion by the Consortium members so that the meeting ended at 12:15 pm CET.

