



SACHROFICS

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What is your project about and why is it important for the advancement of science?

Project SACHROFICS investigates the production, preparation and consumption of food for rituals in the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman period in Cyprus. It promotes the scientific approach to archaeological questions through an interdisciplinary methodology and diachronic scope. The project findings open windows into the past and reveal how ancient Cypriots managed animals, how they produced and cooked food, and the multiple role of rituals in ancient societies.

Why is your project important for society? Have you planned any public engagement activities for those interested to learn more?

Curiosity about our ancestors, and especially the unknown aspects of their lives, is innate in humans. SACHROFICS specifically sheds light on our relationship with nature and animals in the past. Problems such as environmental deterioration, social inequality and brutality against animals are not new and knowledge of their past is important. Beyond satisfying our need to know our past, this project and archaeology in general help humanity avoid repeating mistakes and plan a more sustainable future to the benefit of both humans and animals.

To spread the new knowledge produced, the project includes regular public outreach events with hands-on activities involving animal bones and teeth, which are very popular especially with younger crowds.



How do the MSCA actions support your research?

The MSCA actions constitute shining examples of adequate research funding. They contain provisions that enable the beneficiaries to conduct high-quality research, enhance professional skills and share the knowledge with the wider society through encouragement for public outreach (European Researcher Night).

Cyprus has a long and rich archaeological record that presents unparalleled opportunities for archaeological research. My professional vision is to develop zooarchaeology in Cyprus and eventually seeing it established and flourishing in my country of origin.

Why did you choose Cyprus as a host country?

Cyprus has a long and rich archaeological record and, in combination with its insular nature, presents unparalleled opportunities for archaeological research. My professional vision is to develop zooarchaeology in Cyprus and eventually seeing it established and flourishing in my country of origin. Project SACHROFICS provides me with the opportunity to pursue this vision.

How did you find your host organisation?

The Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Center (STARC) of The Cyprus Institute is the ideal place to carry our research in archaeological science in Cyprus. It has well-equipped labs, equipment and a collaborative spirit..

What tips can you give other researchers who would like to apply for MSCA?

MSCA provide unparalleled opportunities to develop additional research skills, widen your research scope

and advance your career. Moreover, the mobility involved and availability of funds for secondments and conferences and meetings promote international collaboration and enhance opportunities for further future research.

Project: Sacrificial food in Classical, Hellenistic and Roman Cyprus: an interdisciplinary diachronic approach in an island laboratory

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