



“Program to support the socio-economic recovery in the protected area of Shobak castle”

AICS Project GIORDANIA AID 12253/01/1

Training Course Title:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOCUMENTATION FOR JORDANIAN SITES.

Brief Description of the course: Issued by appointed trainers from the University of Florence (Italy), the course will consist of frontal lectures, workshops/practicum and personal project/assignment. Frontal lectures and workshops will mainly focus on:

- **Stratigraphy, Survey and material culture (Domenico Lo Vetro):** This course will offer training in recording and interpreting historical data through frontal lectures and fieldwork primarily focused on the stratigraphic method approach, along with survey activities for interpreting historical contexts within specific landscapes. A part of the course will be dedicated to classification, interpretation of prehistoric stone tools and their chrono-cultural contextualization in the framework of the Prehistory of Central-Southern Jordan. The primary case study will be Southern Transjordan, with particular emphasis on the Ma'an area, where the Chair of Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Florence is conducting an archaeological project in collaboration with Al-Hussein Bin Talal University.
- **Light Archaeology (Chiara Marcotulli):** Light Archaeology is an investigating approach based on non-invasive archaeological methodologies, developed by the Chair of Medieval Archaeology of the University of Florence, which all the mission activities are based on and that is applied in various contexts such as Shobak, Petra, and Kerak. The class will introduce trainees to principles of Landscape, Environmental and Building Archaeology (Archaeology of Architecture) providing the tools to interpret the evolutions of landscape and historic buildings in their contexts, starting from material evidence. The topics, after a brief introduction to the history of the disciplines, will focus on the methodological elements, in order to analyse the specificities of stratigraphy applied to the study of landscapes and architecture. Some lessons will be dedicated to practical activities in Shobak and Petra, such as stratigraphic readings, documentation and data recording.
- **Public Archaeology and archaeological site management (Michele Nucciotti):** This course will concentrate on contemporary theories and methodologies associated with public archaeology, emphasizing key concepts and approaches such as those concerning the study of the public(s), communication, and the valorization of cultural heritage within specific communities and social contexts. Additionally, special emphasis will be placed on the organization and supervision of archaeological fieldwork, from both a technical and 'public' perspectives.



Main goals of the course:

This course aims to familiarise trainees with modern archaeological (stratigraphic) approaches that are useful for reading and interpreting historical phenomena within specific territories and regions from a long-term perspective. Additionally, the objective is to equip trainees with the necessary skills to engage with key theories and practices for recording and discussing data related to the archaeological study of stratigraphic contexts and landscape interpretation, as well as managing and supervising general archaeological fieldwork.

Acquired competences:

Trainees should be able to apply shared theory and practice to the analysis and the interpretation of archaeological contexts, with particular reference to prehistoric and Medieval sites and landscapes. They should be able to record and organise data from survey, excavation and masonry reading activities using those data as historical sources for the final interpretation of archaeological contexts.

Trainers brief biography:

- Michele Nucciotti is an associate professor at the Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Art, and Performance of the University of Florence, where he teaches Medieval Archaeology and Public Archaeology. He is the author of approximately 100 articles in national and international journals and scientific volumes, a member of the scientific committee of the *Armeniaca* journal, and a correspondent for the journals *Medieval Archaeology* and *Historical Research*. He is a member of scientific committees for specialized series for Firenze University Press and Oxbow. As the Coordinator of the Archaeology and Ancient Near East Section, he is the director for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs MAECI of two international archaeological missions in Jordan and Armenia. From 2020 to 2022, he was the Principal Investigator for Italy of the EU JPI Deep Cities Curbatheri project, for which he developed a toolbox for mapping and analyzing material and immaterial cultural values associated with urban development in the European area. Link: www.deepcities-toolbox.unifi.it. He has directed territorial projects of public archaeology as a tool for socio-economic development in Italy (IC Leader Plus – Tuscany), Jordan (Shobak), Armenia (Vayots Dzor), and Iraq (Erbil), supported by AICS and EuropeAid.
- Chiara Marcotulli: holds a PhD in Medieval Archaeology and is president of Laboratori Archeologici San Gallo, a spin-off company of the University of Florence. She is a member of the Italian archaeological mission “Medieval Petra”. From 2014 to 2020 she was adjunct professor of Light Archaeology at the School of Specialization in Archaeological Heritage of the University of Florence and in 2022/2023 she was adjunct professor of Archaeology of post-classical architecture at the Department of Cultural Heritage of the University of Padua. She is scientific coordinator in commercial archaeology investigations in Italy and she is responsible for projects of landscape archaeology, excavation and archaeology of architecture since 2008. Her research interests are in the Middle Ages’ material culture with a specific focus on archaeological analysis of architectures.



- Domenico Lo Vetro: is associate professor of Prehistoric Archaeology at the Department of History, Archaeology, Geography, Art, and Performance of the University of Florence. He is also Director of the Museo e Istituto Fiorentino di Preistoria in Florence. He authored more than 140 scientific publications in Italian and international journals and books. He leads archaeological research and excavations in Italy and abroad. He is a specialist in the study of prehistoric stone tool assemblages. His research activity is mainly focused on the study of hunter-gatherer groups in Southern Italy and Sicily during the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic. He also works on the Prehistory of the Po-Alpine area between Neolithic and Copper Age. Since 2020 he is director of the international archaeological missions in Jordan which is promoted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI), the research project is focused on the Palaeolithic of central-southern Jordan.