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HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS (ΥΠΠΟΑ)  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ANTIQUITIES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (ΓΔΑΠΚ)  
DIRECTORATE OF PREHISTORIC AND CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES (ΔΠΚΑ)  
DIRECTORATE OF BYZANTINE AND POST-BYZANTINE ANTIQUITIES (ΔΒΜΑ)  
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**To:** See Table of Recipients [includes all regional Ephorates, Greek Universities, major Greek Museums, and Foreign Archaeological Schools/Institutes]

**Cc:** 1. Minister's Office

2. Office of Secretary General

3. Independent Department of Legislative Work and Parliamentary Oversight  
(ATNEKE)

4. Office Legal Counselor at the Ministry of Culture and Sports

**Subject:** Terms, conditions and application procedure for permission for systematic archaeological research in Greece

The Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities (ΔΙ.Π.Κ.Α.) and Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities (Δ.Β.Μ.Α.) of the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage (Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ.), taking into consideration Articles 35, 36, 38 and 39 of Law 3028/2002 "For the protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general" (published in the ΦΕΚ 153/Α'/28-6-2002) and the Ministerial Decision bearing protocol number ΥΠΠΟΑ/ΑΤΝΕΚΕ/97550/263/05.03.2018 ΥΑ (ΦΕΚ Β/970/19.03.2018) "Definition

of archaeological field work, conditions and procedures for granting permits for systematic archaeological research and rules for systematic excavations” (henceforth: Ministerial Decision), regarding the terms, conditions and procedures for granting permission for systematic archaeological research, make the following known:

## **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

The present replaces the previous circular with protocol number ΥΠΠΙΟ/ΓΔΑ/ΑΡΧ/Α3/Φ30/70868/2539/27-11-2002 entitled “Terms and conditions for archaeological research in Greece from organizations that do not belong to the Greek Archaeological Service” and relates to all systematic archaeological research projects conducted in Greece by organizations listed under Article 36 of Law 3028/02, including the Services of the Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ. of the Ministry of Culture and Sports. The present circular aims to update and improve the previous guidelines using the experience gained by the relevant Services of the Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ. throughout the years of implementing the older procedures, and to adapt administrative practices to the new Ministerial Decision.

## **IN PARTICULAR**

All applications for conducting new or ongoing archaeological research shall be submitted by 30 November of the preceding year to the relevant Ephorates of Antiquities, with a copy of all documentation sent to the Department Supervising Greek and Foreign Research Institutions and Coordinating Matters of International Cooperation and Organizations of the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities (ΔΙ.Π.Κ.Α.) and/or the Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities (Δ.Β.Μ.Α.), accordingly.

If research involves a cave or paleontological deposits, the application shall be submitted to the Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology-Speleology, with a copy to the relevant local Ephorates of Antiquities and to ΔΙ.Π.Κ.Α.

Requests that relate to coastal studies shall be submitted to the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities and copies sent to the local Ephorate of Antiquities, the consent of which is required, and to the appropriate Directorates (ΔΙ.Π.Κ.Α. and/or Δ.Β.Μ.Α.).

Applications to conduct surface or geophysical survey shall be copied to the relevant Directorate according to the chronological focus of the program: to the Directorate of

Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities and/or to the Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities, accordingly. If at any point during the progress of the study, discoveries are made that fall under the jurisdiction of a Directorate not initially notified in the original application (respectively, the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities or the Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities), the results shall henceforth be sent to them and their approval is mandatory for the continuation of the research.

It is noted that from now on, applications by the Services of the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage (Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ.) shall be submitted within the same time-frame (30 November of the preceding year) to the relevant Directorates of the Central Service. Scheduled research projects must be incorporated in the annual Schedule of Actions by the Services of Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ., which is the organization responsible for conducting them.

Requests by Foreign Archaeological Schools/Institutes shall be submitted via the Director of the Foreign Archaeological School/Institute.

Requests by Greek Universities or other Research Institutes shall be submitted via the Director of the Department, or the Chair of the Department of the University, or via the head of the Research Institute, who also bears the responsibility for the proposed research.

Organizations that conduct more than one archaeological program shall submit their overall schedule of projects, i.e. all the research planned for the upcoming year, before the aforementioned final deadline. The relevant Regional and Special Regional Services of the Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ. check the completeness of the requests and send them, along with the relevant recommendation, to the appropriate permit-granting Central Service, no later than 31 January of the year the research is to be conducted.

A planned systematic excavation, surface survey or other form of archaeological study can be initially approved for a duration of up to five years, under the procedures outlined in Article 3 of the Ministerial Decision. The annual work within an approved program shall be carried out following an examination of the data provided for in the same Article and by the respective decision by the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Sports. In the case that the organization responsible for the systematic

archaeological research is the Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ. itself, the permit is issued by the General/Administrative Secretariat of the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

A decision by the Central Archaeological Council is required within the timeframe of an approved research program in the following situations:

**a)** if the conditions for approval of the program have not been met, especially in regards to the obligations delimited in Article 4 of the Ministerial Decision.

**b)** the research is extended spatially or other forms of research are added. Expanding the scope of research must be justified in the framework of the already-approved schedule of works and stated research objectives.

**c)** basic parameters of research have shifted, as for example a change in the directorship of the project or in the leadership of a collaborating organization when related to a collaborative program.

#### ***A. REQUIRED ACCOMPANYING MATERIAL FOR APPLICATIONS***

##### **a) New projects**

Applications for conducting new research must include the following:

- The scheduled activities for a duration of up to 5 years, with an analytical description of works to be undertaken in the first year and an initial schedule for the activities of subsequent years.
- The justification for the research project.
- CV of the project director, which demonstrates, among other evidence, at least five years of excavation experience and the existence of at least two comprehensive scientific publications related to excavations or excavation finds (para. 4 of Article 36 of Law 3028/02).
- List of project members with their areas of expertise and the cv of senior staff of the scientific team. For surface surveys in particular, it is important that the study team includes the basic archaeological fields of interest (prehistorians, classicists, byzantinists) as far as possible, according to the expected research results.
- Data demonstrating the adequacy of technical and financial resources, with a report on the sources of financing.
- A schedule of dates and duration of the project during the current year, which, if fieldwork is involved, cannot exceed eight (8) weeks per project period. This time

allotment includes any time required to prepare the site before excavations or other exploration begins, as well as work tending to the site after the completion of activities. Projects should not be scheduled for the first three months of the year, unless there is a special reason for doing so.

- Definition of the boundaries of the site to be investigated on an orthophotomap (topographic map), onto which the area to be investigated during the first year is to be precisely indicated, and the areas to be studied during subsequent periods marked approximately, according to Article 2 of the Ministerial Decision. The precise determination of the locations to be investigated each year and by each particular study method shall be declared with the submission of the corresponding annual application.

For surface surveys, the survey area for the entire project shall not exceed 30,000 *stremmata*.

- Description of the research methodology.
- Data concerning the protection status of the area to be studied (archaeologically protected area, protection zones, etc.)
- Documentation concerning the ownership of the area which is to be studied. It is emphasized that the direct purchase or forced expropriation of properties, under the responsibility and expense of the organization conducting the research, shall be an essential prerequisite for the granting of a permit for any systematic excavation (Article 18 of Law 3028/2002). It is, however, possible to conduct trial excavations of limited duration on non-expropriated land, as is defined in Article 36, para. 15-16 of Law 3028/2002. In the case of a request for geophysical or surface survey, it is necessary to inform the property owners regarding the presence of the scientific team, and after the necessary procedures have been followed by the research organizations. If required, the notification is to be made via the Local Authorities.
- In cases of collaborative projects (*synergasies*), a Protocol of Collaboration shall be submitted, completed and signed by the collaborating parties.
- Approval by the relevant Forest Service is required when research is to be conducted in a forested area which needs clearing of undergrowth. The research team is responsible for obtaining Forest Service approval.
- For requests to conduct coring/sediment sampling, the sampling sites shall be designated on a map. If the application includes adequate data regarding the

processing and analysis of the samples (method and laboratory responsible for the analysis), the coring permit suffices for all the stages of transporting and processing the samples taken, and no further approval is required by the Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern Monuments, according to the circular of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, protocol number ΥΠΠΟΑ/ΓΔΑΠΚ/ΔΣΑΝΜ/Φ77/217149/ 140435/2243/9.6.2017.

**b) Continuing projects**

**I.** For approval to extend a continuing research program, for up to five years, in accordance with Article 36, para. 11 of Law 3028/2002, the application must include, in addition to that outlined above in section A.a. of the present circular, the following:

- Report of the activities and results of the previous season, accompanied by plans and photographs, which must provide a composite picture of the field research and its contribution to the enrichment of archaeological data in the wider region.
- The progress of the study and publication of the results from previous years and a relevant schedule for the next research period. Copies of the research publications must be submitted to the appropriate Ephorates of Antiquities and to the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities and/or the Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities where appropriate.
- Correlation on a digital orthophotomap (topographical map) of the area to be studied in relation to the area already excavated/studied.
- Submission of a study or technical report for the consolidation and conservation of the ancient remains already uncovered. A prerequisite for considering an application is the care demonstrated for antiquities that have been uncovered, which is the responsibility of the excavator or the excavating organization. Detailed studies which are concerned with conservation, consolidation and reconstruction (*anastilosis*) of antiquities shall be submitted by the Foreign Archaeological Schools/Institutes and the Greek Universities and other Research Institutions to the local Ephorates of Antiquities, to the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities and/or the Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities, as well as, depending on the case, to the relevant Directorates of the Central Service (Directorate for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments, Directorate for the Restoration of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments, Directorate of Conservation of Ancient and Modern

Monuments). Likewise, the organization conducting the research and the excavator himself must take appropriate action for the good state of preservation and in general the presentability of the site, according to its needs and particular characteristics (i.e. vegetation removal, fencing, drainage). Non-compliance with these obligations constitute grounds for terminating the project by the specific excavator.

- Financial report of the previous research period.

**II.** For the implementation of annual work under an approved program, the provisions of Article 3 of the Ministerial Decision shall apply.

***B. ACTIONS BY THE SERVICES OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS***

The relevant Ephorates of Antiquity send their recommendations for each submitted application to the Department Supervising Greek and Foreign Scientific Institutions and Coordinating Matters of International Collaboration and Organizations of the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities and/or the Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities, with copies to the interested party, no later than 31 January of the year research is to be conducted. In formulating their opinions, the Ephorates must take into account the upholding of terms set out in Articles 36, 38 and 39 of Law 3018/2002 and the Ministerial Decision, as well as the upholding of special conditions that may have been set forth with the approval of each archaeological program. The recommendation document should include the name of the supervising member of the Ephorate of Antiquities. In cases of continuing research, the document must be accompanied by the report of the supervising archaeologist regarding the progress of research during the previous year and the observance of the conditions of the permit. It is understood that any proposals for collaboration between the Services of the Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ. and other organizations must be thoroughly discussed and an agreement reached between the collaborating parties, and they must comply with the provisions of Article 2 of the Ministerial Decision.

In addition, regarding the implementation of Articles 36 and 38 of Law 3028/2002, the following is clarified:

- Excavation experience is considered experience acquired after obtaining a basic degree. The systematic participation in all stages of an excavation program as a member of the scientific team for one excavation season is considered one year of

excavation experience. Corresponding experience in rescue excavations is also considered as excavation experience and counted accordingly.

- If the annual program of a research project involves only the study of archaeological material, the permit is issued directly by the relevant Ephorate of Antiquities, based on the Ministerial Decision, protocol number ΥΠΠΙΟΑ/ΑΤΝΕΚΕ/115620/350/15.3.2018 entitled “Transfer of duties by the Minister of Culture and Sports to the Supervisors of the Regional and Special Regional Services of the General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage and to the Supervisors of the Regional Services of the General Directorate for the Restoration, Museums and Technical Works of the Ministry of Culture and Sports” (ΦΕΚ Β/1255/15.4.2018), and copies sent to the Central Service.
- Applications that relate to archaeometric and laboratory analyses of finds shall be submitted by the interested party, through their research organization, to the relevant Ephorate of Antiquities, based on the Ministry of Culture and Sports circular, protocol number ΥΠΠΙΟΑ/ΓΔΑΠΚ/ΔΣΑΝΜ/Φ77/217149/140435/2243/9.6.2017, so that the procedure described in the above circular may be followed.
- Underwater archaeological projects shall be undertaken in collaboration with the relevant Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities (EEA). In the case where EEA collaborates with a Greek research or educational institution, the two collaborating parties decide as to which party assumes directorship. In the case of a research program that includes research in underwater areas, not including research on land, this underwater research project is counted separately in the number of projects allowed by the interested organization and comes under the aforementioned condition of collaboration.
- Applications for conducting geological research that are submitted to the Institute of Geological and Metallurgical Research (ΙΓΜΕ) by Greek or foreign researchers must have previously been submitted to the relevant Ephorate of Antiquities, whose approval is necessary before ΙΓΜΕ issues the permit.
- In particular, in regards to systematic archaeological research conducted exclusively by organizations in the Services of Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ.:
  - a. Research conducted by active or retired archaeologists of the Services of Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ. comprise projects of the Regional or Special Regional Services, under



whose jurisdiction the site to be examined falls. It is possible for Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ. itself and its Directorates to conduct archaeological research directly.

**b.** The relevant correspondence for the approval permit is undertaken by the Service of Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ. which is the organization responsible for the research.

**c.** Directorship of a systematic research project by the Service is not necessarily assumed by the Supervisor of the Service. On the contrary, it is desirable that in cases where more than one archaeological program is conducted by a Service, the directorship be assigned to other archaeologists who meet the legal criteria according to their field of expertise, area of responsibility, duties, etc.

**d.** Any rescue excavation that continues over a number of years at the same site is considered to acquire the characteristics of a systematic program and likewise abides by the aforementioned provisions (Articles 36, 38 and 39 of Law 3028/2002). It is self-evident that the same provisions of Law 3028/2002 apply to any excavations that had been characterized as systematic based on the K.N. 5351/1932 “Regarding Antiquities” and are still active today (see ruling no. 260/2015 by the State Legal Counsel).

**e.** For the funding of systematic archaeological research through a Cultural Development Agreement, the research project must first have received a permit through the procedure outlined in Article 36 of Law 3028/2002, before submitting the plan of the Agreement to the relevant Services of the Ministry of Culture and Sports for approval.

**f.** In collaborative projects (*synergasies*) between the Archaeological Services and Foreign Archaeological Schools or Institutes, the directorship is assumed by the head of the Greek organization, according to the provisions of Article 36, para. 5 of Law 3028/2002.

### ***C. PARTICIPATION IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAMS***

Organizations that conduct systematic archaeological research must ensure that their scientific team is sufficiently staffed and be careful in selecting appropriate participants in the project, both colleagues and student trainees, who should have a background in archaeology and related sciences. It is possible for students to participate in archaeological fieldwork as part of their training, under the guidance and responsibility of the director and the organization conducting the study, which has been granted the respective permit from the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

In implementing the aforementioned, the organizations conducting systematic archaeological research projects must ensure that:

- In the annual request to conduct research, any changes in the members of the scientific research team is noted, along with their field of expertise. Before the beginning of activities, a full list of all participants in the research must be submitted to the relevant Ephorate of Antiquities, including students, with reference to their specialties and their role in the research program.
- Any invitations extended to students to participate in archaeological programs intended to provide practical fieldwork training should be clear as to their required background in the science of archaeology and related sciences, as well as any economic conditions imposed by the research organization, which should exclusively relate to the students' transportation, room and board and training. It goes without saying that the organization responsible for the research is also responsible for the training process.

#### ***D. ANNOUNCING RESEARCH RESULTS IN THE MEDIA AND ON THE INTERNET***

The organization conducting the research is responsible for informing the relevant Ephorates of Antiquities and Γ.Δ.Α.Π.Κ. in advance of announcements of results in the media and on the internet.

**The Secretary General,  
Maria Andreadaki-Vlazaki**

Internal distribution:

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