PROJECT SUMMARY

The aim of the ADRIAS project is to enhance systematic interdisciplinary study and interpretation of the archaeo-
logical and historical record of shipbuilding and seafar-
ing in the Eastern Adriatic. Its rich maritime history, seen
through the technological development of wooden ship-
building and seafaring and the dynamics that affected
them over time, has not been systematically researched
until recently, due to the lack of appropriate resources and
the absence of a sound methodological basis.

The project considers the cognitive and practical sequenc-
es of the technological development of shipbuilding and
seafaring, studying the relationship between technology
on one hand and the political, economic and cultural/his-
torical context on the other. It focuses on issues from all
periods of the human past (Prehistory, Classical Antiqui-
ty, Middle Ages and Early Modern period) through active
fieldwork, archival research and virtual reality experimen-
tation. From the problematic histories of the Illyrian lem-
boi and Liburnian liburnae, to the complex issues of the
large late Renaissance merchantmen, it provides a com-
prehensive overview of past achievements, and introduc-
es into Croatian research the systematic methodological
approach to the study of the ships' hulls.

Taking into consideration global state-of-the-art practices
in the fields of nautical archaeology and maritime history,
the project aims to introduce cutting edge methodologies
of study of ancient ships, their equipment and cargoes. It
will foster an innovative interdisciplinary approach in the
process of research, recording and interpretation of the
most significant direct material evidence of the Eastern
Adriatic maritime past, while promoting international
collaboration and networking among young researchers.
Such research will have great potential for community
outreach and wider public interest, especially through
promoting the project in public media as well as using
new knowledge in Croatian touristic promotion.

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OTHER SUPPORTERS OF FIELD RESEARCH:

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia
Ministry of foreign affairs and international development of French Republic
Centre Camille Jullian (Aix Marseille Université, CNRS, MCC)
Institute of Nautical Archaeology
Association of Friends of Dubrovnik Antiquities
Municipality of Novalja
Municipality of Tkon
FUNA - Association for Promotion of UW Archaeology
ARS NAUTICA Institute for Maritime Heritage
NOVENA

LEADING INSTITUTION: University of Zadar

SUPPORTED BY:
Croatian Science Foundation

PHOTOS, DRAWINGS AND 3D MODELS:

www.adriasproject.org
OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the ADRIAS Project is to enhance a systematic interdisciplinary study and interpretation of the archaeological and historical record of shipbuilding and seafaring in the Eastern Adriatic. It aims at realizing a set of activities that will result in a well-defined discipline of nautical archaeology in Croatia, providing the templates of hull studies for each historical period, based on different sets of available data.

The ADRIAS Project aims at issuing a number of scientific publications that will make accessible the results of nautical archaeology studies in Croatia, embedded into the historical, economic and social contexts of various periods of the human past.

A further objective of the ADRIAS Project is to develop a dynamic international network of experts and young researchers that will ensure the sustainability of the project’s achievements after the completion of the project. It aims to create a platform for the interdisciplinary collaboration of humanities, natural and technical sciences in documenting, assessing and interpreting the overall context of shipbuilding and seafaring in the past.

In regard to education and public outreach, the ADRIAS Project aims at raising the general public’s awareness of the great value of maritime heritage, the interdisciplinary research directed toward the reconstruction of the history of technological development of Adriatic shipbuilding and seafaring, and the need for protection, research and preservation of shipwreck sites.

Through direct involvement of volunteers, the ADRIAS Project aims at promoting the active participation of the general public in all the activities associated with the study, protection, preservation and presentation of the rich maritime heritage which defines the maritime identity of Croatia.