



Culture



**NEARCH**  
**Meet the partners**  
**N°4**



Meet Kostas Kotsakis

**Profession:**  
Archaeologist and professor

**Institution:**  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUP)

**What is it you do exactly? (job title)**

I teach prehistoric archaeology to pre- and postgraduate students and my main research interests are archaeological theory and method, history of Greek archaeology, Aegean material culture, in particular the Neolithic, and also public archaeology.

**What is your institution's involvement in the NEARCH project?**

AUP is a partner institution to the project.

**What attracted you in the NEARCH project and why did you wish to participate in it?**

NEARCH is a network of institutes deriving from different countries and obviously of different academic backgrounds that coexists independently and exchanges views and ideas, promoting archaeological practice and trying to communicate its work in archaeology to the public. This is a great opportunity and an overwhelming relief, in such circumstances of an economic but also of cultural crisis to feel that you are a part of a community sharing the same worries and visions.

**Are you and your team working on some activities in particular? If so, which ones?**

Our main involvement to the project is Theme A Archaeology for the community: Informing and involving people, but also theme C: Archaeology and knowledge: Teaching and sharing information as well as theme D Archaeology in a changing economy: towards sustainability.

**What is the aim of these activities?**

Our main goal is to open up our activities to the public. Another concern is, without compromising our scientific and academic integrity, to report and to understand the complex relationship archaeology has to the public and through our results to become more effective toward our strategies to involving and informing people.

**What continuation would you give to some of the activities of the project?**

Our hope and our definite will is the outcome of our NEARCH activities to become part of our future research efforts, as well as to work as case studies to the Greek archaeological community.

**What influences would you like NEARCH to have on archaeology and the work of archaeologists in general?**

I would like to see archaeological work adopting a more extrovert attitude towards the general public. It is our firm belief that archaeology flourishes in the common ground with people in a dialogue of mutual understanding and communication. NEARCH initiatives are a positive step towards this direction.