

## ANCHISE: three years of European collaboration deliver results in the Fight Against Cultural Heritage Trafficking



The ANCHISE project – Applying New solutions for Cultural Heritage protection by Innovative, Scientific, social and economic Engagement – is drawing to a close after three years of research, field demonstrations and multi-stakeholder collaboration across seven European countries. Funded under the Horizon Europe programme with a grant of approximately €4 million, the project has united 15 partners spanning universities, research centres, technology companies, law enforcement agencies and international cultural heritage organisations in a shared mission: strengthening Europe's ability to combat the looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property.

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To mark the close of the project, the ANCHISE website ([www.anchise.eu](http://www.anchise.eu)) has been fully updated and now serves as a permanent, open-access gateway to all results, tools presentation, publications, policy documents and training materials produced by the consortium. Visitors will find a richly documented record of the project's achievements across seven distinct output areas.



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## Final Forum: A Milestone Gathering

The ANCHISE Final Forum brought together over 150 practitioners, researchers, law enforcement officers and policymakers from across Europe, providing a space for the consortium to present its findings and open a broader conversation about the future of heritage protection. The event featured a poster session showcasing field demonstrations and technological breakthroughs, and was marked by a video address from French Minister for Higher Education, Research and Space Philippe Baptiste, who praised ANCHISE as a model for how social sciences and humanities can drive concrete, operational innovation at European scale.

### Technological Tools

One of ANCHISE's most tangible legacies is a toolkit of six complementary technological solutions covering the full operational chain from early detection of looting at archaeological sites to the identification and traceability of cultural objects at border control points. Developed using a user-centred methodology and tested in real-world conditions at museums, airports and excavation sites, the tools were refined continuously through practitioner feedback.

### Policy Recommendations and Briefing

The project has published two policy briefs directed at European institutions and member states. The most prominent recommendation calls for the creation of a permanent European interdisciplinary competence centre dedicated to combating the trafficking of cultural goods. Bringing together law enforcement, heritage professionals, researchers and technology developers on a sustained basis, such a centre would close the structural gaps that traffickers currently exploit.



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## Scientific Publications

ANCHISE's scientific output is available in open access and spans an international symposium publication, a major contributed volume and four peer-reviewed articles in leading academic and technical journals. The project's flagship publication, » Artefacts, Roots, Networks: Endangered Archaeology and Trafficking of Archaeological Objects », documents the October 2023 international symposium organised by Université de Poitiers. Other scientific publication and contributions are also available on the website.

## Training Curricula

ANCHISE invested significantly in developing tools for capacity-building. The project developed modular training programmes and curricula tailored to the different professional profiles working in heritage protection – from police investigators and customs officials to archaeologists and museum professionals.



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## ANCHISE Talks

This webinar series brought together experts from across disciplines and geographies for in-depth conversations on heritage protection, illicit trafficking, new technologies and policy. Now archived on the project website and YouTube channel, the series, currently with 9 episodes but more coming in the future, constitutes a rich multimedia library for practitioners, researchers and the general public alike.



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**As ANCHISE closes, its results remain fully open and accessible and present a direction for the future. The consortium encourages heritage professionals, researchers, policymakers and civil society organisations to explore the updated website, engage with the tools and publications, and build on the foundations that three years of European collaboration have laid.**

**Website:** [www.anchise.eu](http://www.anchise.eu)

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