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Europe's Civic University Alliance

CIVIS Open Labs

Archaeological Citizen-science Project:
Local & International Civic Inclusive Engagement (ArcheOPENLAB)

Version 2025-11-0

1. Context & Short Description

ArcheOPENLAB is an archaeological citizen-science project designed to foster inclusive participation of local and international communities in cultural heritage research. It forms part of a broader collaborative initiative aimed at democratizing archaeological knowledge and strengthening connections between researchers, citizens, and educational institutions. The project engages diverse audiences in activities such as heritage documentation, basic analysis, and public dissemination, combining participatory methods with open digital tools. Its scope includes training workshops, community-based recording campaigns, the co-creation of educational resources, and the promotion of intercultural dialogue around shared heritage. By integrating scientific practices with civic engagement, ArcheOPENLAB seeks to enhance public awareness of archaeology, support responsible heritage stewardship, and build long-term collaborative networks. Ultimately, the project encourages inclusive scientific literacy and empowers communities to take an active role in understanding and preserving their archaeological environments.

2. Partners

Partner Name	Type	Bio (2-3 lines)	Website/Link	Photo/Logo
Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts- Ministry of Culture	Community organizationNational stakeholder/ Non-academic stakeholder	Directorate-General is responsible for protecting, conserving, and promoting Spain's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. It oversees heritage policies, restoration projects, and the management of historical assets, while fostering public access, education, and cultural engagement.	https://www.cultura.gob.es/ministerio/organigrama/ministro/secrетaria-estado-cultura/dg-patrimonio-cultura/bbaah.html	 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>MINISTERIO DE CULTURA</p> <p>DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE PATRIMONIO CULTURAL Y BELLAS ARTES</p> <p>SUBDIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE MUSEOS ESTATALES</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: right;">  </div> </div>
Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage of the Community of Madrid	Regional stakeholder/ Non-academic stakeholder	Regional authority responsible for safeguarding, managing, and promoting Madrid's historical, artistic, architectural, and archaeological heritage. It oversees conservation policies, supervises interventions, and maintains official heritage registries. The institution also promotes public access, cultural dissemination, and educational initiatives to ensure the preservation and appreciation of the region's cultural assets.	https://www.comunidad.madrid/transparencia/unidad-organizativa-responsable/direccion-general-patrimonio-cultural-y-oficina-del-espanol	 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>Comunidad de Madrid</p> <p>Dirección General de Patrimonio Cultural CONSEJERÍA DE CULTURA, TURISMO Y DEPORTES</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: right;">  </div> </div>

City Council of Manzanares El Real	Municipal government/ Non-academic stakeholder	It is the local government authority responsible for managing municipal services, urban planning, and community development. It also promotes cultural, environmental, and social initiatives to enhance the quality of life for residents and preserve the town's heritage and natural surroundings.	https://manzanareselreal.es/	 Ayuntamiento Manzanares El Real
City Council of El Boalo, Cerceda, and Mataelpino	Municipal government/ Non-academic stakeholder	This governs the three municipalities, managing local services, urban planning, and community development. It promotes cultural, environmental, and social initiatives to support residents and preserve the region's heritage and natural environment.	https://elboalo-cercedamataelpino.org/	 AYUNTAMIENTO EL BOALO-CERCEDA-MATAELPINO
ADESGAM – Sierra de Guadarrama Development Association	Community organization/ Non-academic stakeholder	This is a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable social, economic, and environmental development in the Sierra de Guadarrama region. It supports local communities through cultural, educational, and conservation projects, fostering regional cohesion and heritage preservation.	https://www.adesgam.org/	 ADESGAM ASOCIACIÓN DE DESARROLLO SIERRA DE GUADARRAMA
Parque Nacional Sierra de Guadarrama	Environmental stakeholder	It is an institution which protect natural area spanning roughly 33,960 hectares across Madrid and Castilla y León. It conserves diverse ecosystems, rich flora and fauna, and unique geological landscapes, and plays a key role in regional environmental conservation and sustainable tourism management.	https://www.parquenacionalesierraguadarrama.es/	 SIERRA DE GUADARRAMA PARQUE NACIONAL
APADIS – Association of Parents of People with Intellectual Disabilities, San Sebastián de los Reyes	NGO / Social organization	It is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. It provides educational, social, and recreational programs to promote inclusion, personal development, and community participation.	https://www.apadis.es/	

AMI3 – Association in Support of People with Disabilities, Tres Cantos	NGO / Social organization	It is a non-profit organization that promotes the well-being, inclusion, and empowerment of people with disabilities. It offers educational, social, and recreational programs to foster personal development and active participation in the community.	https://www.comunidad.madrid/centros/centro-ocupacional-tres-cantos-ami-3	
Equipo Patrimonio Sierra S.L. (Heritage Consulting Company)	Non-academic stakeholder / Private company	It is a heritage consulting company specializing in the management, conservation, and promotion of cultural and natural heritage. It provides technical services, project planning, and advisory support for heritage preservation and sustainable development initiatives.	https://equipopatrimoniosierra.es/	
La Pedriza Hostel, Manzanares El Real	Non-academic stakeholder / Private company	It is a hospitality and tourism facility offering accommodation and services for visitors to the Manzanares El Real area. It supports cultural and nature-based tourism, providing access to the surrounding natural and heritage sites.	https://hostellapedriza.es/	
SECYR-UAM	Academic stakeholder	SECYR is an academic research group at the Autonomous University of Madrid specializing in archaeological analysis, material culture, and heritage documentation. It contributes scientific expertise, research methodologies, and student training, strengthening the project's academic rigor and advancing collaborative knowledge production in archaeology.	https://hostellapedriza.es/	

3. Main Beneficiaries & Social Impact

A. Main Beneficiaries

ArcheOPENLAB is a citizen-science project designed to engage a wide and diverse range of beneficiaries, bringing together local communities, students, non-governmental organizations, cultural and heritage associations, municipal and regional authorities, and international volunteers and heritage enthusiasts. The project is fundamentally aimed at empowering local communities to take an active role in the documentation, conservation, and dissemination of their own archaeological and cultural heritage, while simultaneously creating opportunities for students, researchers, NGOs, and policymakers to collaborate in co-creation and participatory processes. Local citizens represent one of the core beneficiary

groups of ArcheOPENLAB. They are invited to participate in multiple ways, including responding to open calls for volunteer engagement, joining hands-on workshops focused on archaeological documentation techniques, learning to use digital mapping tools, participating in oral history collection, contributing to 3D modelling of heritage sites, and attending co-creation sessions where they can help define research priorities and dissemination strategies. These workshops provide practical skills and foster a deeper understanding of heritage conservation and scientific methodology, making heritage accessible and relevant to the wider community. Each year, it is estimated that between fifty to one hundred and fifty local participants per region engage actively in these activities, with the potential to reach several hundred participants cumulatively over multiple years, depending on the scope of the project and the number of localities involved. These activities not only enhance the participants' technical and scientific skills but also foster a sense of ownership, responsibility, and pride in local cultural assets, creating a lasting impact on community engagement with heritage preservation.

Students, including secondary school pupils, university students, and adult learners participating through continuing-education programs, form another key beneficiary group. Students are invited to join educational workshops, field-based internships, research-oriented modules, and digital heritage projects. Participation allows students to gain practical experience in archaeological research, digital documentation, heritage analysis, and collaborative scientific practices. They learn to work with open-source software for mapping, data collection, 3D reconstruction, and virtual exhibitions, acquiring valuable skills for academic and professional development. Each year, it is expected that approximately thirty to one hundred students participate, depending on the number of partnering schools, universities, and other educational institutions. Students also benefit from mentorship by professional archaeologists, heritage specialists, and researchers, which provides an opportunity to bridge formal education with real-world scientific and cultural heritage practices. In addition to technical and analytical skills, students develop competencies in communication, teamwork, and civic engagement, contributing to broader societal understanding of cultural heritage and its relevance to contemporary life. Through their participation, students also serve as multipliers, bringing awareness of heritage and scientific research to their peers, families, and local communities, further extending the reach and impact of ArcheOPENLAB.

Non-governmental organizations, community associations, and cultural heritage groups represent another core set of beneficiaries. These organizations contribute to project design, help mobilize volunteers, co-host public events such as talks, guided heritage walks, exhibitions, and workshops, and participate in outreach efforts to ensure inclusion of marginalized or underrepresented groups. Typically, five to fifteen partner organizations per region are actively involved, with dozens or hundreds of members engaged collectively. NGOs and community groups often provide critical local knowledge and networks that allow the project to identify heritage sites, organize citizen participation campaigns, and foster collaboration between different stakeholders. By collaborating with ArcheOPENLAB, these organizations strengthen their capacity for community engagement, digital documentation, heritage education, and intercultural dialogue. In many cases, partnerships with NGOs also enable the project to reach populations that may not traditionally engage with heritage initiatives, including people with disabilities, minority groups, and socially or geographically marginalized communities.

Municipal and regional public authorities, including local councils, heritage departments, and cultural offices, also benefit from participating in ArcheOPENLAB. These stakeholders are involved through meetings, co-design sessions, and validation of heritage records, ensuring that the project aligns with local policies, regulations, and urban or regional planning strategies. Typically, one to five authorities per locality participate in planning, decision-making, and active implementation phases. Their engagement is essential to ensure that

heritage documentation and conservation activities meet regulatory requirements and are integrated into broader cultural and urban development strategies. By participating, municipal authorities gain access to citizen-generated data, community perspectives, and innovative methodologies for heritage management, which can inform future policies and planning decisions. The collaboration also strengthens relationships between local governments, citizens, and researchers, fostering a culture of shared responsibility for heritage preservation and civic engagement.

In addition to local and regional participants, ArcheOPENLAB actively engages an international audience of volunteers, researchers, and heritage enthusiasts. These participants contribute both remotely and in-person, supporting tasks such as digital transcription, data validation, 3D modelling, archival research, documentation review, and cross-cultural knowledge exchange through online platforms. International participants bring diverse perspectives, expertise, and skills, fostering global collaboration and knowledge transfer. Depending on the scope of the project's outreach efforts, dozens to low hundreds of international volunteers may be engaged annually. Their involvement allows the project to connect local heritage initiatives to broader international networks, promoting awareness of cultural heritage on a global scale and encouraging comparative approaches to citizen science and participatory archaeology.

Participation in ArcheOPENLAB occurs through a variety of structured channels designed to maximize engagement and impact. Workshops and training sessions provide beneficiaries with practical and digital skills required for heritage documentation, analysis, and preservation. Open calls and volunteer campaigns invite citizens, students, NGOs, and international participants to contribute to specific project tasks, such as site mapping, archival digitization, oral history recording, and community outreach. Co-creation sessions and collaborative events allow stakeholders to actively shape research priorities, design dissemination strategies, and participate in public outputs such as exhibitions, publications, presentations, and educational materials. Community-driven heritage recording and monitoring ensures long-term involvement, with citizens and local organizations maintaining, updating, and enriching heritage records over time, fostering sustainability and continuity in heritage management.

ArcheOPENLAB's engagement strategy is designed to be flexible and scalable, reflecting the principles of citizen science. The number of participants and the intensity of engagement vary depending on regional interest, institutional support, and available resources, allowing the project to adapt to local contexts while maintaining a coherent overall methodology. The project aims not only to generate high-quality scientific and cultural data but also to promote social inclusion, civic participation, and intercultural dialogue, ensuring that both local and international beneficiaries derive tangible educational, social, and professional benefits.

The project's impact on beneficiaries extends beyond skill-building and research outputs. For citizens and community members, participation enhances awareness of local heritage, fosters a sense of belonging and responsibility, and encourages active engagement in heritage conservation. For students, participation provides experiential learning opportunities, mentorship, and practical exposure to research methods, digital technologies, and collaborative practices. For NGOs and community organizations, involvement strengthens organizational capacity, expands networks, and facilitates participation in high-impact cultural projects. For municipal authorities, engagement improves policy-making, planning, and regulatory compliance while promoting transparent and participatory governance. For international volunteers, ArcheOPENLAB offers opportunities for intercultural exchange, knowledge sharing, and participation in cutting-edge heritage research initiatives.

Through these diverse forms of participation, ArcheOPENLAB creates a comprehensive, inclusive, and sustainable model for citizen engagement in archaeology and heritage preservation, fostering meaningful collaboration among all stakeholders and generating long-lasting benefits for individuals, communities, institutions, and heritage itself. By

connecting local, regional, and global actors, the project exemplifies how citizen science can democratize access to knowledge, promote cultural understanding, and support the sustainable management and appreciation of shared heritage.

B. Social Impact

How do beneficiaries benefit (learning opportunities, networks, capacity-building, real-world impact)? What is the expected or observed social impact – awareness, strengthened skills, collaboration, policy influence?

ArcheOPENLAB generates profound social impact across multiple dimensions, including educational, cultural, social, civic, and economic areas, benefiting a highly diverse group of participants and communities. The project is designed to engage students from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) as well as students from other European universities, including members of the CIVIS European University Alliance, creating opportunities for cross-institutional learning and international collaboration. These students participate in fieldwork at heritage sites such as the Castillo Viejo de Manzanares El Real, as well as in laboratory and digital work related to conservation, archaeological documentation, zoo-archaeology, and heritage management. Through this involvement, students acquire practical, hands-on experience in scientific methods, excavation techniques, heritage documentation, 3D modelling, and interdisciplinary analysis, complementing their academic studies with real-world applications. This participation fosters the development of technical and analytical skills, problem-solving abilities, teamwork, and communication, while also nurturing an understanding of how heritage connects to society and contributes to collective memory. In addition to technical competencies, students gain experience in civic engagement, project coordination, and collaboration with multiple stakeholders, which enhances their professional and social development and prepares them to work in multicultural, interdisciplinary, and participatory contexts in the future.

Another central group of beneficiaries are people with functional diversity, who actively participate in the project thanks to inclusive strategies developed in collaboration with organizations such as APADIS. ArcheOPENLAB adapts tasks and activities to the capacities of these participants, allowing them to engage meaningfully in excavation, documentation, and heritage conservation processes. By including people with disabilities, the project promotes social equity, accessibility, and empowerment, ensuring that all members of society could engage with cultural heritage. This inclusive approach strengthens social cohesion, raises awareness of diversity and inclusion in heritage practices, and fosters an understanding that heritage is a resource for everyone, not just for specialists or able-bodied participants. The presence of people with functional diversity also enriches the project with diverse perspectives and experiences, fostering empathy, mutual respect, and a more holistic understanding of community engagement and cultural stewardship.

At the community and civic level, ArcheOPENLAB significantly enhances local engagement and empowerment. Heritage sites, which might otherwise remain unnoticed or underutilized, are transformed into living spaces of memory, identity, and participation.

Local citizens, associations, and volunteers are invited to contribute actively through workshops, open calls, co-creation sessions, and community monitoring programs. These activities encourage residents to take ownership of their heritage, instilling pride and a sense of responsibility for the conservation and dissemination of local archaeological and cultural assets. Through participatory excavation campaigns, heritage walks, and public exhibitions, local communities gain direct experience in heritage practices, contributing to intergenerational learning and ensuring that local knowledge, traditions, and stories are preserved and valued. By actively involving residents in tangible heritage management, ArcheOPENLAB strengthens social bonds, promotes civic responsibility, and creates sustainable, long-term networks of engaged citizens who are invested in the protection and promotion of their cultural environment.

The project also generates measurable educational and capacity-building benefits for all participants. Students and volunteers acquire knowledge in heritage research, documentation, analysis, and digital tools, while community participants gain training in practical conservation and recording techniques. Workshops and co-creation sessions provide opportunities for knowledge exchange between academic researchers, local citizens, NGOs, and municipal authorities. Participants learn to use GIS mapping, 3D scanning, archival systems, and participatory documentation methods, enhancing their digital literacy and technical expertise. These learning opportunities translate into real-world skills that can be applied in professional or community-based contexts, building capacity for heritage preservation, research, and cultural programming.

In addition to skill development, ArcheOPENLAB promotes the creation and strengthening of networks and collaborative relationships. Students, citizens, NGOs, local authorities, and international volunteers work together on shared objectives, fostering trust, communication, and cooperation among diverse stakeholders. These networks facilitate the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and resources, linking local initiatives to broader European and international heritage agendas. Collaboration with municipal stakeholders ensures that project activities are integrated with local planning, heritage management, and policymaking, which increases the societal relevance and sustainability of the work. The co-creation of heritage documentation, exhibitions, and educational outputs empowers participants to influence decisions, contribute to policy discussions, and actively shape how heritage is preserved and presented.

The cultural and societal impact of ArcheOPENLAB is equally significant. By actively engaging diverse participants, the project promotes public awareness of the value of cultural heritage, encouraging appreciation for both material and intangible assets. Participants develop a deeper understanding of their local and regional history, fostering a stronger sense of identity and belonging. Inclusive practices ensure that heritage is recognized as a shared social resource, contributing to social cohesion and intercultural dialogue. For people with functional diversity, participation in heritage activities challenges stereotypes, increases visibility, and promotes inclusion, demonstrating that cultural and archaeological engagement is accessible to all. The intercultural and international dimension of the project further broadens participants' perspectives, creating a shared understanding of European heritage and fostering cooperation across borders.

ArcheOPENLAB also produces economic and sustainability impacts through heritage valorization. Restoration and conservation of sites, public exhibitions, guided tours, and educational programs enhance local tourism and cultural economy. Municipalities such as Manzanares El Real and El Boalo benefit from increased visibility, visitor engagement, and sustainable economic activation related to heritage tourism. By linking cultural heritage with economic development, the project contributes to local resilience, demonstrating that heritage preservation and community empowerment can coexist with sustainable development strategies.

At the institutional and policy level, ArcheOPENLAB promotes participatory governance, transparency, and inclusive decision-making. By engaging municipal authorities, heritage administrations, universities, NGOs, and citizens in co-creation and consultation processes, the project encourages collaborative heritage management that integrates scientific knowledge, local experience, and social needs. This participatory approach helps democratize access to cultural heritage, enhances the legitimacy of conservation strategies, and strengthens the role of policy in supporting inclusive, socially responsible, and community-centered heritage initiatives.

Overall, the social impact of ArcheOPENLAB is multifaceted and cumulative. Participants benefit from experiential learning, capacity-building, and skill development; community members and people with functional diversity gain inclusion, empowerment, and visibility; municipalities and local authorities strengthen heritage governance and civic engagement; and students from multiple universities gain professional, technical, and intercultural competencies. The project promotes awareness, collaboration, and networks that extend beyond the immediate project sites, encouraging sustained engagement with cultural heritage. It fosters a culture of responsibility, respect, and care for heritage, strengthens social cohesion, and demonstrates how inclusive, participatory, and citizen-driven initiatives can generate measurable social, educational, and economic benefits. Through these processes, ArcheOPENLAB exemplifies the transformative potential of citizen science, combining academic research, social inclusion, civic engagement, and cultural preservation to produce long-lasting, meaningful social impact across local, regional, and international scales.

4. Core Methodology

ArcheOPENLAB employs a participatory, citizen-science approach, combining co-creation workshops, field-based archaeological documentation, digital heritage mapping, and community engagement. Local citizens, students, NGOs, and authorities collaboratively record, analyze, and preserve heritage, ensuring inclusive participation, skill-building, and shared decision-making while integrating scientific research with social, educational, and cultural objectives.

5. Events in the Project

Event Name	Date (s)	Location	Description (purpose, audience)	Photo/Link
Excavations – El Boalo, Cerceda & Mataelpino	April-May 2025	El Boalo, Cerceda & Mataelpino	Field excavations engaging students, local citizens, NGOs, and heritage volunteers. Focus on site recording, analysis, and community participation.	https://elboalo-cerceda-mataelpino.org/viiicampanaexcavacion/ 
Open Doors / Public Access – Post	May 2025	El Boalo, Cerceda &	Similar public engagement event to share excavation findings, promote heritage awareness, and foster community involvement.	https://www.facebook.com/TurismoElBoaloCercedaMataelpino/posts/-jornada-puertas-abiertas-yacimiento-el-rebollar-2025-domingo-18-de-mayo-horario/1170897188170792/

Excavations		Matael pino		
Otoño Visigodo Festival	October 2025	Manzanares El Real / El Boalo	Annual cultural event celebrating Visigothic heritage with workshops, presentations, and heritage-themed activities for families, students, and visitors.	https://elboalo-cercedamataelpino.org/viaja-en-el-tiempo-v-otono-visigodo/
Third Prize for Service-Learning within the CIVIS Alliance	29 May	UAM	On the project received the Third Prize for Service-Learning within the CIVIS Alliance, recognising its innovative approach to inclusive, community-engaged archaeological education.	
Excavations – Castillo Viejo de Manzanares El Real	June 2025	Manzanares El Real	One-month continuation of field excavation, including international students from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and the University of Bucharest, along with local citizens and volunteers. Emphasis on preservation, recording, and co-created heritage outputs.	https://manzanareselreal.es/castillo-viejo-cuaderno-de-excavacion/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peAX2K3hJFY 

Open Doors / Public Access – Post Excavations	June 2025	Manzanares El Real, El Boalo	Public event at the conclusion of excavations allowing citizens, tourists, and local communities to visit sites, see results, and engage with archaeologists.	
Guided Tours – Every Weekend	2024-2025	El Boalo	Weekly guided tours providing access to archaeological sites and local heritage. Audience includes visitors, tourists, local residents, and students.	https://elboalo-cercedamataelpino.org/visita-guiada-al-yacimiento-de-el-rebollar/ 
Local Media & Radio Participation	September 2025	Local municipalities (Manzanares El Real, El Boalo)	Engagement with local radio stations and media outlets to publicize project activities, share excavation results, and increase community participation. Audience includes local residents, students, and broader public.	https://manzanareselreal.es/agenda-municipal/jornada-de-puertas-abiertas-en-la-excavacion-del-castillo-viejo/
Participation in Open Lab CIVIS Council	September 2025	Stockholm	Participation in the annual CIVIS Open Lab Council, presenting project outcomes, strengthening inter-university collaboration, and contributing to the strategic development of Open Lab initiatives across the alliance.	https://civis.eu/es/engage/open-labs 
Practices for Students	October 2025	Manzanares El Real, El Boalo	Hands-on archaeological training sessions for university students, combining fieldwork, heritage documentation, and community-engaged practices across the sites of Manzanares El Real and El Boalo.	
Round table – Archaeology &	November 2025	Round table University of	Presentation of ArcheOPENLAB project results, methodology, and social impact at an international congress.	https://share.google/kNVzzS4ZBtjKLYkMy

Citizen Science		Bucarest	engaging researchers, students, and heritage professionals. (Congress Link: https://share.google/kNVzzS4ZBtjKLYkMy)	
Temporary exhibition at the Museo Arqueológico y Paleontológico de la Comunidad de Madrid (MARPA) on the Visigothic church of El Rebollar	2025	Exhibition / Museum resource MARPA	Exhibit (2024–2025) showcasing the archaeological findings from El Rebollar, promoting awareness and public dissemination of heritage research. https://marpa.madrid/actividades/exposiciones-temporales/la-iglesia-visigoda-de-el-rebollar-el-boalo	https://www.comunidad.madrid/noticias/2024/05/29/comunidad-madrid-inaugura-exposicion-historia-iglesia-visigoda-rebollar-ubicada-boalo 
MAN Museum Lecture Cycle	2025	Public Lecture / Conference	Lecture presenting excavation results and heritage research developments. https://www.man.es/man/actividades/cursos-y-conferencias/20241015-ciclo-actualidad-arqueologica-6/20241119-manzanares-elreal.html	https://www.man.es/man/actividades/cursos-y-conferencias/20241015-ciclo-actualidad-arqueologica-6/20241119-manzanares-elreal.html

6. Deliverables & Resources

Deliverable / Resource	Type (report, video, toolkit...)	Link / File	Caption / Description
ArcheOPENLAB, el proyecto arqueológico que conecta la ciencia ciudadana local con Europa	Web article / Project summary	https://www.uam.es/uam/en/noticias/proyecto-europeo-archeopenlab-manzanares-el-real (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)	Overview article explaining the 2025 campaign at Castillo Viejo de Manzanares El Real, involvement of international students from National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and University of Bucharest, and the inclusive citizen-science model.
Social-archaeology project page for El Rebollar (El Boalo)	Web / Information Page	https://www.comunidad.madrid/cultura/patrimonio-cultural/arqueologia-social-yacimiento-rebollar-boalo (Comunidad de Madrid)	Official description of the social-archaeology methodology, objectives, community participation and heritage value of the Visigothic site.
"Cuaderno de Excavación" – Castillo Viejo 2024/2025	Report / Online Log	https://manzanareselreal.es/castillo-viejo-cuaderno-de-excavacion/ (Ayuntamiento de Manzanares El Real)	Chronological record of the fieldwork weeks, participants, findings, conservation work and inclusive initiatives at the excavation site.

News article "ArcheOPENLAB: Conexión entre ciencia ciudadana y patrimonio europeo en Manzanares El Real"	Media / News article	https://iymagazine.es/noticia/8995/universidad/archeopenlab%3A-conexion-entre-ciencia-ciudadana-y-patrimonio-europeo-en-manzanares-el-real.html (IyMagazine)	Media coverage emphasizing the project's social impact, inclusion of people with functional diversity, international collaboration, and sustainable tourism.
Temporary exhibition at the Museo Arqueológico y Paleontológico de la Comunidad de Madrid (MARPA) on the Visigothic church of El Rebollar	Exhibition / Museum resource	https://marpa.madrid/actividades/exposiciones-temporales/la-iglesia-visigoda-de-el-rebollar-el-boalo (marpa.madrid)	Exhibit (2024–2025) showcasing the archaeological findings from El Rebollar, promoting awareness and public dissemination of heritage research.
Temporary exhibition at the Museo Arqueológico y Paleontológico de la Comunidad de Madrid (MARPA) on the Visigothic church of El Rebollar	Exhibition / Museum resource	https://marpa.madrid/actividades/exposiciones-temporales/la-iglesia-visigoda-de-el-rebollar-el-boalo (marpa.madrid)	Exhibit (2024–2025) showcasing the archaeological findings from El Rebollar, promoting awareness and public dissemination of heritage research.
News on nomination to Premio Palarq for El Rebollar	News article / Recognition	https://www cope.es/emisoras/comunidad-de-madrid/madrid-provincia/villalba/noticias/yacimiento-rebollar-boalo-aspirante-premio-palarq-oscar-ardeologia-distincion-nacional-tesoro-local-20250801_3194027.html (COPE)	Article that highlights the archaeological and heritage value of El Rebollar, recognition at national level and increased visibility of the project.
Instagram Post – ArcheOPENLAB Excavations	Social Media Post	https://www.instagram.com/p/DKzANntM7WW/	Visual summary of excavation activities and community participation.
APADIS Participation News	News Article	https://www.diariodesanse.com/2024/06/18/apadis-participa-en-la-excavacion-ardeologica-del-castillo-viejo-de-manzanares-el-real/	Article highlighting the involvement of APADIS participants in the archaeological campaign.
Video – Archaeological Excavation	Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XF_cDPWKU	Video documenting field activities and citizen-science participation.
MAN Museum Lecture Cycle	Public Lecture / Conference	https://www.man.es/man/actividades/cursos-y-conferencias/20241015-ciclo-actualidad-ardeologica-6/20241119-manzanares-elreal.html	Lecture presenting excavation results and heritage research developments.
Excavation Notebook – Castle Viejo	Report / Field Notebook	https://elguadarramista.com/2024/06/24/cuaderno-excavacion-de-la-iv-campana-de-excavacion-del-castillo-viejo-de-manzanares/	Digital notebook summarizing the 2024 excavation progress.
Public Archaeology – CM	Public Information Page	https://www.comunidad.madrid/cultura/patrimonio-	Regional government page on public archaeology initiatives at Castillo Viejo.

		cultural/arqueologia-publica-castillo-viejo-manzanares-real	
Rebollar Archaeological Site – CM	Public Information Page	https://www.comunidad.madrid/cultura/patrimonio-cultural/yacimiento-rebollar-boalo	Information on the Rebollar archaeological site and social archaeology program.
Municipality Excavation Campaign	Municipal Report	https://elboalo-cercedamataelpino.org/viicampanaexcavacion/	Summary of excavation results and community activities in El Boalo.
UAM Archaeological Excavation Page	Academic Portal	https://www.uam.es/fyl/facultad/departamentos/prehistoria-y-archeologia/excavacion-archeologica	University page presenting student participation and excavation programs.
El Rebollar Visigothic Site	Municipal Information Page	https://elboalo-cercedamataelpino.org/yacimiento-archeologico-visigodo-de-el-rebollar/	Information on the Visigothic site and public engagement initiatives.

7. Testimonials & Highlights

C. A. Key Take-Aways / Highlights

- ArcheOPENLAB demonstrates that **citizen-science in archaeology creates real social impact**, strengthening local identity while making scientific research accessible to all.
- **Inclusive participation**—from university students to people with functional diversity—proves that heritage can be a powerful tool for social integration and empowerment.
- Collaboration between **municipalities, universities, NGOs, and cultural institutions** generates a model of shared governance applicable to other territories.
- Fieldwork and workshops significantly **increase public awareness** of heritage protection and foster a long-term sense of stewardship in local communities.
- The project highlights the value of **international academic exchange**, with students from several European universities enriching research quality and cultural understanding.
- Continuous visibility through media, open days, and public lectures ensures **transparent, participatory, and community-centered archaeology**.

D. B. Beneficiary Impressions / Quotes

Students (UAM, University of Athens, University of Bucharest)

- “Working on-site transformed theory into reality. I learned more in one week than in a whole semester.”
- “ArcheOPENLAB showed me how archaeology can engage and empower entire communities.”

Participants with Functional Diversity (APADIS, AMI3)

- “Being part of the excavation made me feel capable and included. I never imagined I could do archaeology.”
- “We discovered history together, and I felt like my contribution truly mattered.”

Local Citizens

- “For the first time, we feel connected to our own heritage. The project makes archaeology ours.”
- “Seeing the excavation progress each week was inspiring—now we understand why protecting the site is important.”

Municipal Representatives

- “ArcheOPENLAB has strengthened community identity and created new opportunities for cultural tourism.”

- *"The project proves that collaboration between institutions and citizens leads to long-lasting heritage stewardship."*

NGO & Heritage Professionals (ADESGAM, Equipo Patrimonio Sierra)

- *"The citizen-science model has opened new pathways for sustainable heritage management."*
- *"This initiative sets a benchmark for inclusive, socially engaged archaeology in Spain."*

Researchers / Academic Partners

- *"The project is a powerful example of how scientific research can be fully participatory."*
- *"International collaboration enriched both the methodology and the learning experience for everyone involved."*

8. Contact Point

Name: JAVIER SALIDO DOMINGUEZ

Email: Javier.salido@uam.es

Institution / Role: Universidad Autónoma de Madrid