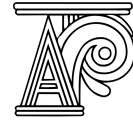




REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT,  
COMMUNICATIONS & WORKS**



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ANTIQUITIES**

1516 LEFKOSIA

## **Workshop on the Conservation of Underwater Finds**

A five day workshop on the conservation of underwater finds was organised by the Department of Antiquities (DoA), Cyprus in collaboration with the HFF. The workshop took place in the DoA's Laboratory for the Conservation of Underwater Finds in Larnaca during the week 10-14 December 2018. It was attended by Cypriot, Lebanese and Egyptian conservators.



**Discussing wood species identification**

The workshop focused mainly on the conservation of waterlogged organics and marine metals but also included a session on in-situ protection and preservation. The programme included both theoretical and practical elements.

The topics covered included material understanding and identification, condition assessment, selection of appropriate treatments and their implementation.

Various techniques currently available for conserving waterlogged organics (not just wood but also textiles, leather, rope, etc) were presented and solutions for newly established laboratories, where infrastructure and equipment may not be readily available, were discussed. Similarly, options for cleaning and desalinating metallic finds (wrought and cast iron, copper, silver and gold) were presented and demonstrated.

Methods of identifying and understanding the objects under conservation such as x-raying, microscopic investigation and material identification were also discussed and demonstrated.

More specifically the topics covered are listed below:

- Wood as a raw material
- Wood species identification
- Understanding other organics: leather, textile, rope, etc
- Burial environment and wood decay
- First Aid/ long term storage/ pre-treatment
- In-situ protection
- Wood condition assessment



**The workshop included both  
lectures and practical sessions**

- Wood conservation treatments
- Other organic conservation treatments
- Decay of metals
- Conservation of metals
- Radiography of metal objects
- Composites
- Chloride monitoring
- Storage of metals and composites

The variety of finds under conservation in the DoA's laboratory ensured there was a range of objects that could be handled by the group, some of which were condition assessed and treatment options were discussed.



**Interpreting x-rays of metallic and composite objects**

Likewise, participants were given the opportunity to use equipment necessary for the desalination and treatment of various types of material and apply some of the conservation treatments discussed in the theoretical part.

For the non-Cypriot conservators the workshop presented the opportunity to see the DoA's Laboratory for the Conservation of Underwater Finds and the infrastructure and equipment such a laboratory requires. The storage facilities for the conserved material were also visited.

Lectures and practical sessions were given by Mags Felter from the York Archaeological Trust, Angeliki Zisi from the University of Oslo and Eleni Loizides from the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus. The workshop was attended by Eleni Loizides, Chrystalla Kypri and Ourania Makri from the Department of Antiquities Cyprus, Constantina Hadjivasili, Freelance Conservator in Cyprus, Isabelle Doumet-Skaf from CONSERVATION SARL Lebanon, May Haider from Holy Spirit University (Usek), Lebanon and May Al-Wardany from the University of Alexandria, Egypt.



**Workshop participants and tutors**