

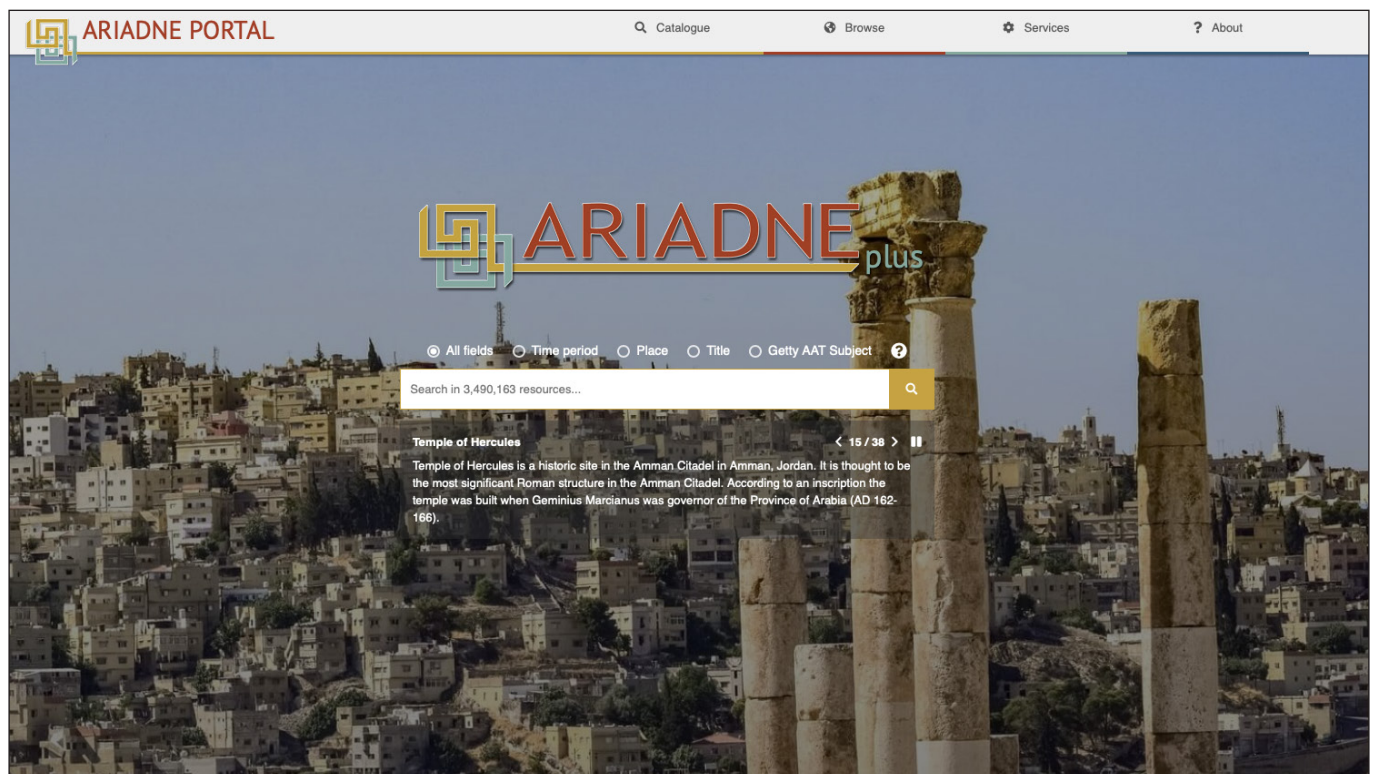
## THE ARIADNEPLUS PROJECT HAS COME TO AN END

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*The ARIADNEPlus project, a continuation of the ARIADNE programme (Advanced Research Infrastructure for Archaeological Dataset Networking in Europe) (2013–2017), was funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme between 2019 and 2022.*

The ARIADNE programme was aimed at integrating and making searchable the databases of the participating institutions on a single platform and providing support to institutions that wish to create an archiving system. A vast amount of archaeological data is available across Europe, which is constantly growing as technology develops. The potential of this data is untapped due to access [difficulties](#). The [portal](#) created (*Fig. 1*) provides access to archaeological data from the partner institutions, but documentation is only available on the institution's website with the appropriate level of access.



*Fig. 1. Main page of the ARIADNEplus portal*

The project has an extensive communication network, and the participants are active members of various sectors and professional communities of archaeological and heritage protection. Our joint mission has been to build communities, draw attention to the project's activities and achievements, and facilitate the involvement and support of stakeholders (*Fig. 2*).

The 41 partner institutions in the ARIADNEPlus programme were responsible for the development of common guidelines and strategies to support legislation, as well as the standardisation and archiving of archaeological documentation. In this process, the FAIR principle, which specifies that data must be

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searchable, findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable, played a major part. Based on these criteria and the Linked Open Data principle, which makes interoperability accessible, we have sought to standardise and improve data integration through data analysis tools, GIS, and 3D visualisation. In addition, we wanted to create a stable research network through conferences, workshops, and training sessions. The outbreak of the Covid epidemic has had some impact on these efforts, with most workshops and conferences between 2019 and 2021 having been held in the online space, but there has been an ongoing collaboration between partner institutions. As a result, thanks to development and data sharing, more than 3 million records – each comprising several texts and images – are available through the ARIADNE portal today.

In addition, the project aimed to not only extend the existing catalogues by adding new infrastructural elements and research results (especially of scientific analyses) but also to improve the level of data integration. Archaeological data infrastructures are largely location-based, and their content is limited mainly to developed countries; thus, there is a strong demand for storing and organising metadata at different levels. The portal provides insight into each country's registered archaeological sites and archaeological records, while metadata makes it simple to search among them based on various criteria.

We have developed and integrated several [tools](#) that can help archaeologists in protocol creation, digital data management, and research.

There is also a [Training Centre](#), a collection of online training courses, workshops, and webcasts, which archaeologists may find helpful.

From Hungary, the Hungarian National Museum participated in the ARIADNE and ARIADNEPlus projects, creating Hungary's first online [Archaeological Database](#). The expansion of the database and the data management of the sites have been carried out in cooperation with museums and state authorities. The database currently holds metadata and documentation for more than 61 500 archaeological sites and contains almost 1.2 million files. We consider it a priority to enable the digital archiving and searchability of the archaeological site documentation, referring not only to 30-day reports and excavation documentation but scientific analytic reports, conservation documentation, aerial photographs, LiDAR images, etc., and to make them accessible for users with the appropriate levels of authorisation. A further advantage of the database is that the data of each site, the documentation and its metadata, and the related publications are available in one place, thus providing an unpublishable amount of data on a single site.

Its data structure and descriptors follow international standards to ensure [interoperability with other databases](#) (ACDM native XMLs/CIDOC-CRM, Getty AAT, WGS84, PeriodO).

The National Institute of Archaeology, established in 2022 within the Hungarian National Museum, set up the Archaeological Data and Documentation Management Department, the dedicated tasks of which are the administration of the Archaeological Database, the enrichment of data and documentation of archaeological sites, the digitalisation of old paper-based documentation, and the archiving of digital documentation. In this way, the Hungarian nation's two centuries of archaeological data, collected here and growing exponentially, is preserved under proper conditions, including adequate IT security and protection and continuous, high-quality operation. The documentation collected at the National Museum is archived and preserved for posterity following a uniform protocol.



*Fig. 2. Coverage of the ARIADNEPlus portal*



*Fig. 3. Closing event of the ARIADNEPlus project in Florence*

The ARIADNEPlus project has finished at the end of 2022. At the closing event in Florence on 15 December, the participants were informed about the possibilities of maintaining the project and the portal. From 2023, the project will continue to operate as an international non-profit organisation under the name ARIADNE RI and provide access to the portal and support the participation of member institutions in possible future research projects on similar topics (Fig. 3).

If you have any questions about the Archaeological Database, please do not hesitate to contact us at [regeszetiadattar.nri@hnm.hu](mailto:regeszetiadattar.nri@hnm.hu)