



The European Music Archaeology Project (EMAP) was officially launched on June 3, 2013 with the signing of the economic agreement between the European Union and the City of Tarquinia. The project's ten European partners met for the first time in August 2013.

Over the next five years, from the heart of Etruria, EMAP will bring together scholars and artists from seven European countries in a network of events, a series of workshops, concerts, conferences, publications and an extraordinary multimedia exhibition.

The purpose of the project is to make use of all available modern technology to revive and even play the musical instruments of the ancient European civilizations. The project aims to highlight the interconnections which already existed among the peoples of the European continent in ancient times. It will be a journey through time and space, from the Upper Paleolithic period (ca 40,000 B.C.) through to the classical civilizations which inhabited the Mediterranean area, Central and Northern Europe, down to the Middle Ages, when the so called - and at this point presumed - *history of music* began. This adventure may well have continued into the present day, since many of the fascinating musical devices have survived in traditional music throughout the continent and the Mediterranean basin.

Experts will be reconstructing the history and context of extinct instruments such as the majestic bronze trumpets, the Etruscan *lituus* and the Celtic *carnyx*, rediscovering their shape and appearance and finally their essence, that is, their sound.

EMAP obtained top marks among the 80 projects presented in 2012 for the prestigious Strand 1.1 of the EACEA (Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency) and this prestigious project will be led by partners in Italy. In practical terms EU funding will cover 50% of the project's activities, amounting to close to €2 million.

Co-ordinated by the City of Tarquinia, EMAP will bring together the work of music academies, universities, research centres, cultural associations, and local bodies in Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden, Austria and Cyprus. The specialist teams involved in the various aspects of the project includes archaeologists, ethnomusicologists, multimedia artists, musicians, composers, sound designers and scientific researchers.

EMAP will begin its activities in November 2013 with workshops, instrument reconstruction, conferences and performances, as well as educational programmes. This will culminate in the exhibition *ARCHÆOMUSICA – Exploring the Sounds and Music of Ancient Europe*, which will open in Rome in May 2016 and will later travel to five other European cities.

EMAP aims to capitalize on the growing interest in musical studies in the field of archaeology and raise the profile of this fascinating interdisciplinary research area which so far has had very little recognition.

EMAP's exhibition activities will be an immersive experience which will allow users to explore and virtually "touch" ancient musical instruments. The findings will be fully illustrated in a documentary, shared on an interactive website and presented in a database that can be consulted by scholars from all over the world.

