Understanding and accessibility of pre-and proto-historical research issues: sites, museums and communication strategies.

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Abstract: Since a successful thematic session carried out in the UISPP World Congress 2018, the theme of the problems related to the transmission of scientific data in archeological areas and prehistoric or protohistoric museums is proposed again. Several years UNESCO recommends to supplement and extend the application of standards and principles laid down in existing international instruments referring to the place of museums, and to their related roles and responsibilities. On the other hand, museums are increasingly linked to the research carried out on their collections and related contexts and themes: beside a proposed new definition of museums, will be discussed in the Extraordinary General Assembly of ICOM in Kyoto (9th September 2019) propose to defines the museum as “…participatory and transparent, and work in active partnership with and for diverse communities to collect, preserve, research, interpret, exhibit, and enhance understandings of the world, aiming to contribute to human dignity and social justice, global equality and planetary wellbeing.”. In this context, museums and sites are more and more the place where they meet scientific research and Heritage education, not being only a place for exhibitions. In this contemporary panorama, communication it is essential for the social role of the museums and for their reason for being.

Problems of the prehistoric and protohistoric archaeological areas and of the museums totally or partially linked to these two eras, they are linked to one hand to the temporal and cultural distance of pre and protohistoric societies respect to the average public and, to other hand, to the lack of monumentality and immediate understanding of many vestiges of the Pleistocene and Holocene in its most distant phases (Late Prehistory and Metal Ages). Critical parts of internal communication are: 1) mediate the scientific language of the researchers with a language understandable to all, but not trivial; 2) make the visit to the museum and the site an educational experience; 3) give everyone the opportunity to enjoy the educational contents, including visitors with physical and intellectual disabilities. Critical parts of external communication are: 1) involving the local community; 2) to be present in the media channels clearly, periodically and attractively with press releases and another actions (special programmer…); 3) engagement public; 4) Using different channels ((newsletters, blogs, social networks…) for different segments of the public and languages; 5) open dialogue with our stakeholders.

We invite to submit proposals to discuss these issues in a multidisciplinary meeting about archaeologists, paleoanthropologists, architects, sociologists and museographers. Suggested topics are: problems of archaeological prehistoric and proto-historic museums and sites, carrying studies case, future projects and other experience.