



EUROPA
NOSTRA



SARAT

SAFEGUARDING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSETS OF
TURKEY



BIAA | BRITISH INSTITUTE
AT ANKARA
Understanding Turkey and the Black Sea

ANAMED
KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ
ANADOLU MEDENİYETLERİ
ARAŞTIRMA MERKEZİ

ICOM | international
council
of museums
UK

BRITISH
COUNCIL



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

WHAT IS SARAT?

“Safeguarding Archaeological Assets of Turkey” (SARAT) is an educational and awareness-raising project that has had considerable impact on the protection and appreciation of Turkey’s rich, diverse, and at times threatened archaeological heritage. Through its interconnected programmes SARAT has worked towards strengthening the skills and increase knowledge and awareness amongst heritage professionals, heritage-related people and the general public. Undertaken by heritage professionals living in Turkey in response to the needs of the local context, the project initially came to life thanks to a large grant from the Cultural Protection Fund.

The first three year of the SARAT project (2017-2020) was led by the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA), in partnership with Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) and the United Kingdom branch of the International Council of Museums (ICOM UK).

SARAT - Safeguarding Archaeological Assets of Turkey has received a **Europa Nostra Award 2020** in the category Education, Training and Awareness-Raising.

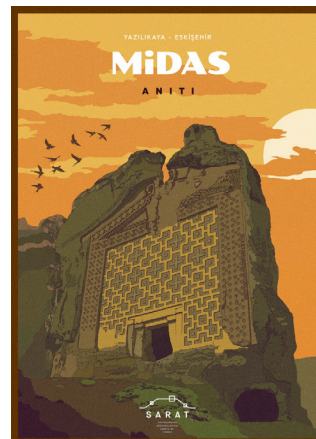
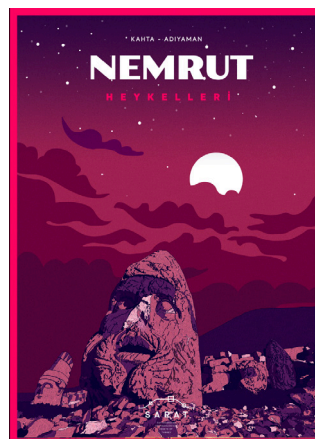
HOW TO SAFEGUARD?

SARAT takes the view that there are certain critical components which need to be addressed to achieve the long-term preservation of Turkey's archaeological heritage. Firstly, the preservation of archaeological assets needs to address a gap in professional preparedness regarding risk management and rescue. This has been the subject of an **'Online Certificate Programme: Safeguarding and Rescuing Archaeological Assets'** developed in response to local conditions by Turkish heritage professionals.

Secondly, SARAT views archaeological preservation holistically, contending that it requires public, as well as professional, engagement. **A nation-wide public opinion poll** has provided vital evidence about the value attributed to archaeological heritage by the public. These findings have been integrated into the online certificate programme and provided the framework for **'Archaeology in Local Context'** workshops with local heritage influencers who will work with local communities to build social and economic capital based on archaeological assets.

The term 'holistic' also refers to the integrity of archaeological sites. This integrity is compromised when objects are illicitly removed from the context in which they are found. To address this issue the SARAT project has engaged with two other important groups. In-depth interviews with registered **collectors of antiquities** and others involved in this area revealed new insights related to the practices and ethics of object acquisition. **Journalists' workshops** built a culture of ethical reporting that checks sources, minimizes sensationalism and constructs more nuanced narratives around public responsibility for archaeological preservation.

These project components were actively pursued through a range of activities.



ACTIVITIES IN A NUTSHELL

- The first nation-wide public opinion poll of attitudes to archaeology in Turkey conducted face-to-face interviews with 3601 people.
- A 5 module-20 session online certificate programme, 'Safeguarding and Rescuing Archaeological Assets' was developed by the SARAT team and delivered and credentialed by Koç University.
- 5 workshops with journalists were organized across Turkey to encourage more accurate and informed reporting of archaeological heritage.
- A further 6 workshops "Archaeology in Local Contexts" encouraged local influencers across Turkey to work with communities using archaeological assets to build economic and social capital.
- Interviews with 20 individuals working with registered collections of antiquities covered multiple topics from the profile and the motivation of the collectors, their plans for the future of their collections to their level of awareness of illicit excavations and trade and the damage it causes to the archaeological record



THE NATION-WIDE PUBLIC OPINION POLL

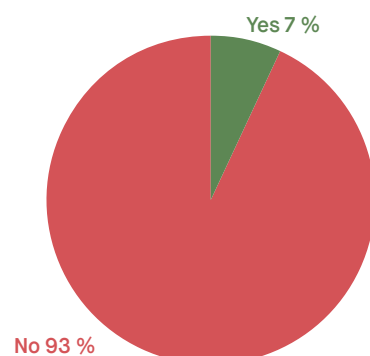
The first public opinion poll in Turkey to investigate the perception of archaeology by people was initiated and carried out by the SARAT project in May 2018. Five different areas: demographics, awareness, knowledge, interaction and opinion were explored through 65 questions during face-to-face interviews with 3601 people across Turkey. This survey aimed to map the already existing relations and attachments between archaeology and people and to understand the values given to archaeological assets.

- Revealed the high value attributed to archaeological assets across different lifestyle groups and established a baseline for leveraging these results to engage local communities in heritage protection.
- Was incorporated into the online certificate programme.
- Provided the basis for the social and economic capital-building workshops (*Archaeology in Local Context*).
- Has been disseminated through a series of public events raising awareness about the research and the work of SARAT in the Turkish and international archaeological and heritage communities.



Has anyone you know ever found a treasure?

Yes [] No []

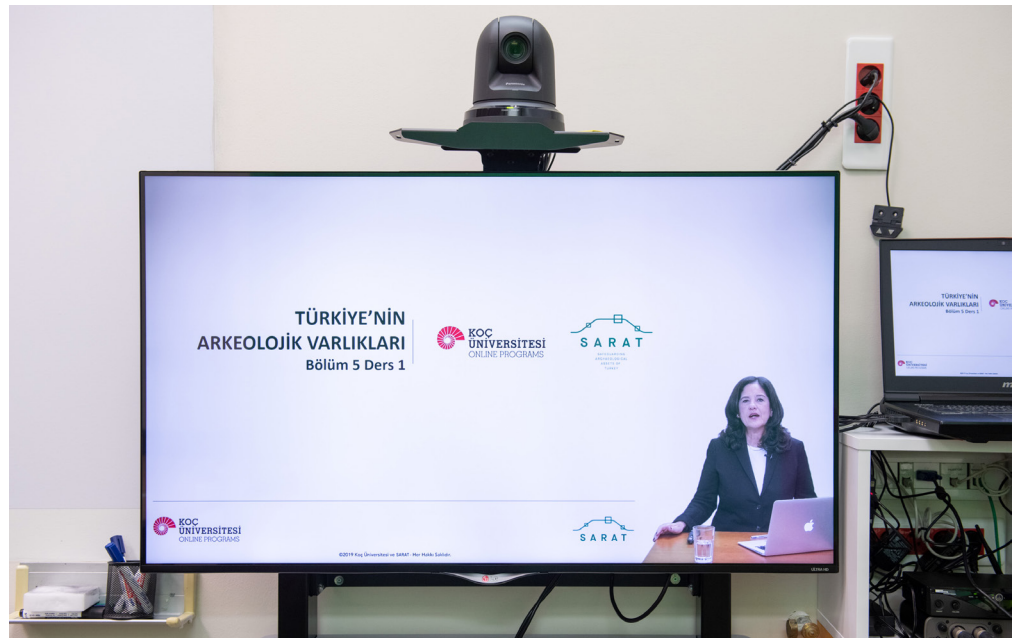




ONLINE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME 'SAFEGUARDING AND RESCUING ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS'

The focus of the 20-episode course is on disaster risk management and emergency preparedness for cultural heritage. This core focus is augmented further by an introductory module on current threats and protective mechanisms for archaeological heritage, practical skills, and finally by a module on UNESCO World Heritage and Turkey. All of the episodes include interviews with relevant academics and experts. The program is offered in Turkish and is free of charge.

- Was developed by SARAT to a standard approved by Koç University for a Masters level credential and awarded with a certificate upon successful completion.
- Confirmed the appetite for training in this area when 8,357 people applied for places over a period of eight months.
- Produced 3809 graduates from all regions of Turkey who achieved the minimum standard of a 75% pass rate and recorded significant increases in learning based on pre and post test scores.
- Generated a dataset based on application details which reveals a breadth of heritage work in Turkey unavailable elsewhere.
- Established a professional community of graduates trained in risk management and rescue with the potential to influence practice throughout the country.



JOURNALISTS' WORKSHOPS

Journalists, who have a great impact in shaping the public view on archaeology and heritage, formed an important target group for the SARAT project. The project aimed at making a contribution to increasing the quality of news writing in archaeology by forming a bridge between the concerns and viewpoints of archaeologists and the needs and opinions of journalists. The SARAT team compiled a small handbook on archaeological terminology and procedures in Turkey for the use of journalists (*available online on the SARAT web-site*).

- Workshops took place in 5 different provinces around the country and attracted 102 people.
- Produced preliminary evidence that the principles of ethical reporting are being applied to new articles published about archaeology.
- Revealed enthusiasm for more workshops, in more places throughout the country.



COLLECTORS OF ANTIQUITIES

Through a series of interviews, the SARAT project builds a critical awareness in this key group, particularly on the scientific value of archaeological assets, the importance of context and the cruciality of preserving the integrity of archaeological deposits. Collectors are made aware of the scale and nature of illicit trade in antiquities and the scale of destruction caused by looting of archaeological objects.

- Registered antiquities collectors and others relevant to this study have willingly engaged in interviews.
- Have provided important preliminary insights into their motivations in collecting, the ethics of acquisition, the bureaucracy of antiquities collecting, and the future of private collections.
- The main objective of this component, to open up a dialogue between collectors and archaeologists to discuss the practices, concerns and ethical issues, has been achieved through their willingness to talk and listen.



ARCHAEOLOGY IN LOCAL CONTEXTS WORKSHOPS

The '*Archaeology in Local Contexts*' meetings were designed to inspire regional influencers working with local communities to develop sustainable social and economic capital through leveraging heritage assets.

- Involved 311 people in 6 workshops aimed at engaging local communities with archaeological heritage.
- Created a platform for establishing local networks of heritage-related organisations and associations.
- Inspired participants via the information that the public values archaeological heritage.



OTHER OUTCOMES:

Publications:

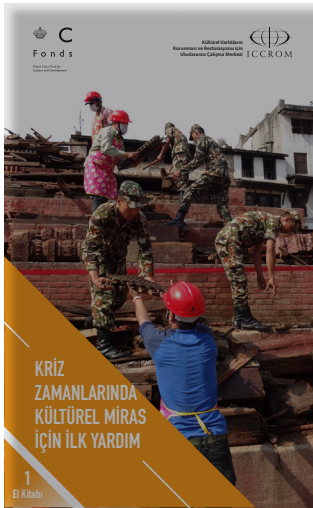
- A booklet of national and international case studies providing examples of using archaeological assets to generate economic and social capital.
- A booklet for journalists with information on basic archaeological terminology, historic chronology and legal procedures.
- A Turkish translation of the 2018 ICCROM handbook, 'First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis'
- Academic publications on different aspects of the project, especially the public opinion poll

Customised videos:

- 13 interviews with international experts, 6 specially produced videos addressing archaeology's tangible and intangible value and 10 videos focusing on examples of positive human engagement with archaeological assets.
- These videos are disseminated through the SARAT social media channels, as part of the online certificate programme and through the BIAA YouTube channel.
- Promotional videos of the The Online Certificate Programme, the Journalists' Workshops and the 'Archaeology in Local Context' workshops. These are being used in presentations and conferences and are available on YouTube.

Promotional campaigns:

- The Online Certificate Programme, the Journalists' Workshops and the 'Archaeology in Local Context' workshops used customised videos, posters and social media.
- Monuments of Anatolia is a social media campaign, which promotes outstanding archaeological sites of Turkey through unique, artful posters created for this occasion along with a short description of the place.



INFLUENCE

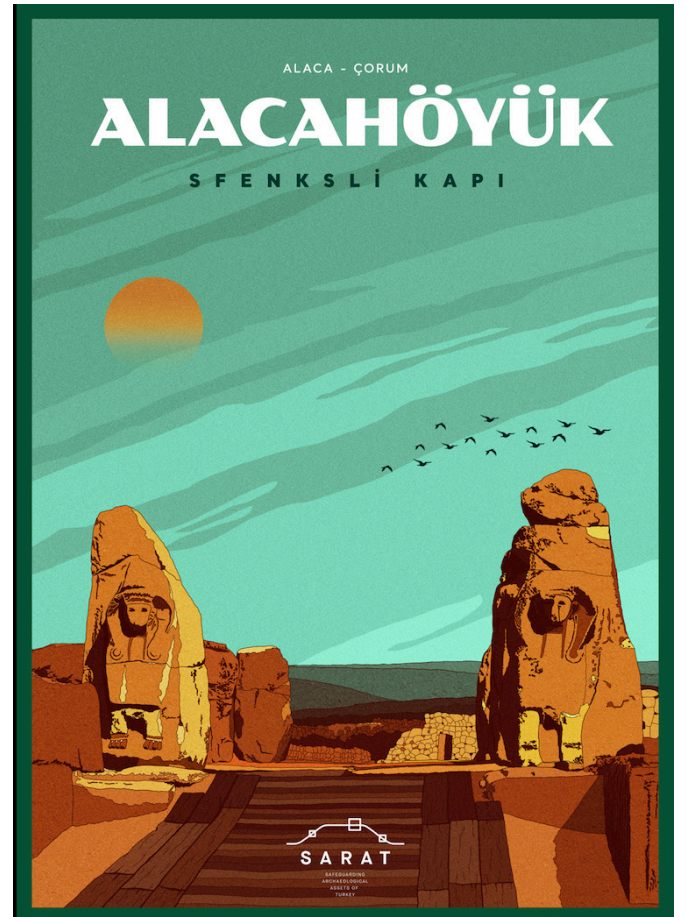
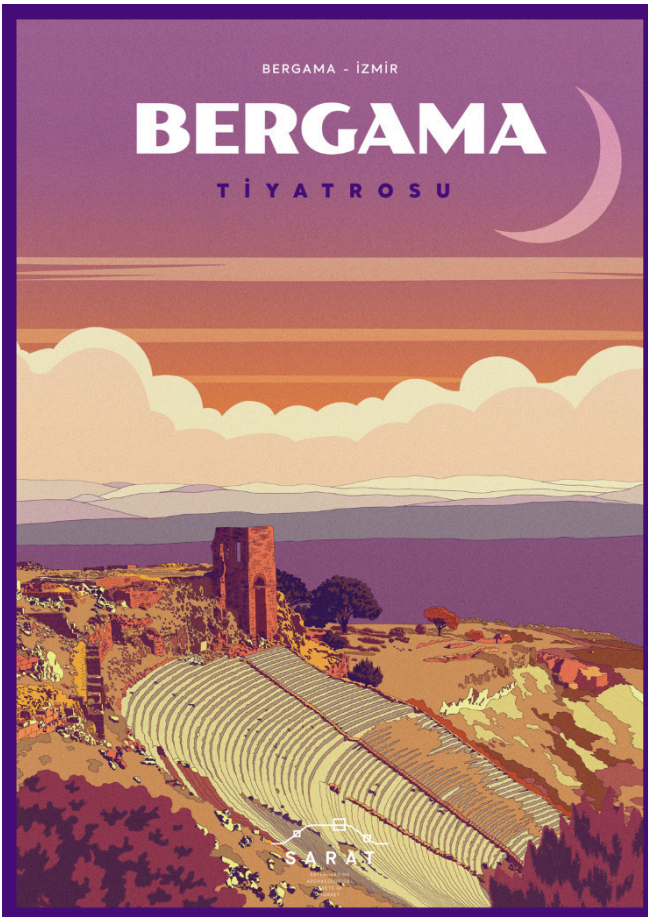
Activities, experiences and results of SARAT has been shared extensively with the national and international heritage community and academia through outreach events, lectures, participation in symposia etc.

A programme of continuous documentation of the project activities has generated an archive of videos and images which is a 'tangible legacy' of the SARAT project.

SARAT's activities and social media campaigns have generated a growing 'community of interested and energized people' engaged with Turkey's archaeological assets and its preservation.

Through Journalists' workshops, the Archaeology in Local Contexts workshops and interviews with collectors, a network of influence is being established with SARAT at its core.

Partnerships with like-minded organisations, associations and individuals have been established.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

SARAT PROJECT WEBSITE

<https://saratprojesi.com/tr>

SARAT FACEBOOK PAGE

<facebook.com/saratprojesi>

SARAT TWITTER ACCOUNT

<twitter.com/saratprojesi>

SARAT INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

<instagram.com/saratprojesi>

SARAT YOUTUBE PLAYLIST

<bit.ly/SARATonYoutube>

SARAT PHOTOS

<bit.ly/SARATPhotos>

