



# LABORATORY OF MARITIME ARCHEOLOGY

Faculty of Maritime Studies  
University of Montenegro

The Laboratory of Maritime Archaeology is the first maritime archaeology research unit in Montenegro. It is established at the University of Montenegro within the Centre for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship of the Faculty of Maritime Studies in Kotor.

The geographical position and features of the eastern Adriatic coast have been favourable for the early development of maritime activities. Therefore, maritime archaeological finds within the Montenegrin basin, although insufficiently explored, are very diverse. There is ample evidence of shipwreck remains ranging from Hellenistic and Roman merchant ships, and vessels from the Middle Ages, to those that were used in the previous century mainly for military purposes. Through the various periods of naval warfare on the Adriatic Sea, a number of vessels is declared missing in the territorial waters of Montenegro. Their resting places have to be identified, while the already identified remains of maritime and underwater cultural heritage have to be acknowledged as an immeasurable contribution to the attractiveness of the Montenegrin coast.

Recognizing the opportunity for the development of a new scientific discipline, the Maritime Faculty in Kotor established the Laboratory of Maritime Archeology within the Center for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship to strengthen and improve the resources for systematic research and interpretation of underwater cultural heritage in Montenegro. The goal of the Laboratory of Maritime Archeology is to position Montenegro on the international scientific map of maritime and underwater archaeology in accordance with the provisions of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. The Laboratory of Maritime Archeology will ensure the further development of this scientific discipline in Montenegro through intensive international cooperation with a multidisciplinary approach, applying state-of-the-art methodology and innovative technologies.

## **Mission**

The mission of the Laboratory of Maritime Archeology is to illuminate and make the underwater cultural heritage of Montenegro accessible to the public through state-of-the-art methodology, innovative technologies and the highest scientific standards for reconnaissance, documentation, preservation and promotion of maritime and underwater cultural heritage.

As part of educational activities, the Laboratory for Maritime Archeology will work to rise institutional capacities for innovative research methods, digital documentation of maritime

and underwater cultural heritage and its national and international promotion. Through a multidisciplinary approach, it will foster a greater international academic presence of Montenegrin researchers and scientific workers in the field of sciences related to underwater research. It will have a positive impact on the implementation of the provisions of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the Maritime Archeology Laboratory are: complete mapping of the seabed of territorial waters and identification of underwater cultural heritage using various optical and acoustic methods; digital documentation using photogrammetric and laser scanning methodology of maritime and underwater cultural heritage and its presentation in virtual and augmented reality; classification and valorization of underwater sites; processing, documenting underwater archaeological material from private collections and tracking missing material in the country and abroad; creation of a database and online GIS portal on underwater archaeological sites intended for institutional use and the public; multidisciplinary of research, intensive cooperation with institutions, promotion and use of available national resources; intensive international cooperation, participation and management of projects in the country and abroad; support for international cooperation, synergies and networking of relevant institutions in the network of promotion and protection of underwater cultural heritage; support to institutions in the chain of cultural heritage, contribution to the preparation of planning documents and construction projects in coastal areas; support for better institutional implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage; organization of courses in advanced research methods for collecting spatial data with the aim of increasing institutional capacities; networking and strengthening of scientific and professional capacities (trainings, courses, summer schools, lifelong education programs); representation of the University of Montenegro in international scientific publications; promotion of the University of Montenegro as an institution that takes care of underwater and maritime cultural heritage; scientific and cultural promotion of Montenegro; support for the development of tourism sectors and products based on underwater cultural heritage; international promotion of the maritime identity of Montenegro and its maritime attractiveness; organization of international courses and study programs; organizing scientific gatherings and conferences on the topic of maritime archeology and underwater cultural heritage.

### **Laboratory of Maritime Archeology**

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