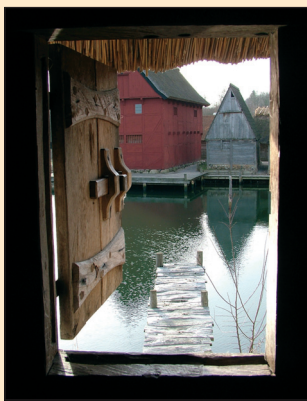


# News from EXARC

■ Roeland PAARDEKOOPER (NL)

EXARC was founded in 2001, to answer the growing need of archaeological open air museums to stand together internationally. In 2008, we have 60 members in about 20 different countries, all involved in museums, experimental, public archaeology or education. EXARC has a website and is also publishes EuroREA.



■ **View on the Merchant's House**, Middelaldercentret, Denmark. Picture author.

EXARC has a reasonably good overview of what is happening when it concerns archaeological open air museums and often serves as 'link pin' between them. In 2008, EXARC sent a flyer to 200 archaeological open air museums across Europe to ask them to consider membership. Most of these museums will be represented in the *liveARCH European guide of archaeological open air museums*, discussed elsewhere in this volume.



■ **Prehistoric ensemble** at Archeon, 2008. Picture author.



■ **House** at the Bajuwaren Hof Kirchheim, München. Picture author.

*liveARCH* is a European project where 8 EXARC members work together on matters which are important to archaeological open air museums. Together with them, EXARC has formulated a **minimum definition** of what such a museum actually is. This will be endorsed in March 2009 by the members of EXARC and from that moment on, will be one of the cornerstones of the association. After a minimum definition it would be important to agree on what makes a 'good' museum. Probably in future, EXARC will also try to settle minimum definitions on other important groups and activities, such as for example archaeological education centres, living history or experimental archaeology.



■ **Furnace** in the tower of the Bachritterburg Kanzach. Picture author.

Developments in Germany in 2008 required action from EXARC and a lively discussion has started about living history groups flirting with National Socialistic philosophy. EXARC has shown their great concern, but cannot state what

is 'right' or 'wrong.' Therefore, EXARC has successfully called for a discussion within the international living history scene about what should be allowed and what not.



■ **"Stone Age"** cover of the magazine "Stern" regarding the "Steinzeit, das Experiment".

EXARC is convinced that an important step would be to associate open air museums with an archaeological profile as an affiliated organisation to the **World Museum Association ICOM**. This idea goes back to 2005, when EXARC discussed it with the Association of European (ethnographic) Open Air Museums (AEOM) as well as with the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Archaeology and History (ICMAH) and their working group on *Musées de Site et de Reconstitution Archéologique*, unfortunately without result. In the past 2 years however, the EXARC board met with several members of the Executive Council in Sweden, Austria and Norway – a process which will continue in 2009.

EXARC will have its **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** in March 2009, happily coinciding with the 6th *liveARCH* meeting, in Modena, Italy. We expect a successful and large convention of members and likewise interested colleagues.

Although EXARC so far, only

has institutional members, this is going to change in 2009 when EXARC will open up to **individual membership**. Besides this EXARC will be focussing on archaeological open air museums outside Europe as well. We have an interesting offer to make to both categories – keep an eye on our website [www.exarc.eu](http://www.exarc.eu) and maybe we will see you again at one of our meetings?

## Summary

### Des nouvelles de l'EXARC

Au cours de l'année 2008, l'EXARC, en partenariat avec le projet *liveARCH*, a formulé une première définition d'un musée archéologique de plein air. L'EXARC a aussi lancé une discussion au sein des cercles internationaux dédiés à l'Histoire Vivante pour présenter certaines de leurs problématiques. Actuellement, l'EXARC compte 60 membres issus de 20 pays, tous impliqués dans les musées, l'archéologie expérimentale et la pédagogie. Pour plus d'informations, consultez [www.exarc.eu](http://www.exarc.eu)

### Neues von EXARC

Im Jahr 2008 hat EXARC – in Kooperation mit dem *liveARCH*-Projekt – eine Definition der Mindestanforderungen an ein archäologisches Freilichtmuseum erarbeitet. EXARC hat ebenfalls eine Diskussion innerhalb der internationalen Living History-Szene zur Frage der Darstellung sensibler Themen initiiert. Derzeit gehören zu EXARC 60 Mitglieder in 20 verschiedenen Ländern, die sich alle mit Fragen der Museumsarbeit, der Experimentellen Archäologie und der Pädagogik beschäftigen. Weitere Informationen unter [www.exarc.eu](http://www.exarc.eu).



■ **Set of "Bronze Age" tools**, Archeon, 2008. Picture author.