

ARCHAEOLOGY IN FOCUS

a new exhibition area at *denkmal* Leipzig 2026 – a cooperation between ClfA Deutschland and *denkmal*

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About ClfA Deutschland: current activities and initiatives

ClfA Deutschland (<https://www.archaeologists.net/groups/deutschland>) is an Area Group of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and serves as a key point of connection into the European Union. We act as a central contact for all those working in archaeology and related disciplines, including professionals arriving from abroad to support major infrastructure projects in Germany. The sector is currently affected by a significant shortage of skilled archaeological personnel, which has direct consequences for the timely and high-quality implementation of development and infrastructure schemes.

Against this backdrop, ClfA Deutschland and the Working Group of Archaeological Specialist Companies have jointly appealed to HTW Berlin to safeguard existing training pathways in restoration and excavation technology and to consider establishing a dual study programme. The closure of such programmes would exacerbate the existing shortage of qualified staff and undermine the professional capacity required across Germany and Europe more widely.

ClfA Deutschland further supports the European Manifesto on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, issued by the Plataforma Estatal de Profesionales de la Arqueología, which calls for strong, future-oriented structures in archaeological education, practice and heritage management. This aligns with our ongoing efforts to uphold professional standards and strengthen the visibility and resilience of the archaeological sector. Detailed statements about these are available in our LinkedIn posts below.

- ‘Archäologische Fachfirmen appellieren an die HTW Berlin ...’ <https://bit.ly/3NxpbeO>
- ‘ClfA Deutschland spricht sich entschieden...’ <https://bit.ly/4qA9rXb>
- ‘Wie wir bei ClfA Deutschland bereits berichtet haben...’ <https://bit.ly/49QxoCe>
- ‘ClfA Deutschland unterstützt...’ <https://bit.ly/4a4063T>

In addition, ClfA Deutschland held a highly successful annual conference this year, bringing together more than 80 participants for a focused programme on hazardous substances and health protection in archaeological practice – an issue of increasing relevance across fieldwork and laboratory environments.

denkmal 2026: archaeology takes centre stage

denkmal <https://www.denkmal-leipzig.de/de/>, Europe’s leading trade fair for heritage conservation, restoration and the refurbishment of historic buildings, will place a new emphasis on archaeology in 2026. The event brings together professionals from across Europe every two years and regularly hosts around 500 exhibitors and more than 13,000 visitors. For the first time, archaeology will form a distinct and fully structured component of the programme.

A collaborative initiative

ClfA Deutschland and *denkmal* have strengthened their partnership to establish a dedicated Archaeology Exhibition Area, which will be presented from 5 to 7 November 2026 in Leipzig. This development recognises the central role that archaeology plays in heritage management and the wider cultural sector. The new section is designed to reflect the breadth of archaeological practice and to support knowledge-sharing among practitioners, employers, researchers and policy makers. Exhibitors and visitors will be able to engage with

- archaeological prospection and excavation
- digital and geospatial documentation
- 3D recording, modelling and visualisation
- restoration practice
- public engagement and interpretation



The exhibition aims to highlight how archaeological expertise informs decision-making on landscape management, planning processes, tourism development and major infrastructure projects, including energy-transition schemes across Europe.

Connection with MUTEK

The exhibition will run alongside MUTEK, the International Trade Fair for Museum and Exhibition Technology. This parallel setting provides opportunities for joint discussion on the presentation of archaeological material, visitor engagement and the use of digital tools in communicating research outcomes. The proximity of the two events supports an integrated view of archaeological work, from field investigation to public dissemination.

Responding to sector demands

Archaeology in Germany is currently shaped by significant pressures arising from the expansion of national and European energy infrastructure. This context requires coordinated professional capacity, consistent standards and constructive collaboration across the sector. *denkmal* provides an established platform for addressing these issues and for strengthening professional networks.

The archaeological associations ClfA Deutschland and Deutschen Gesellschaft für Ur- und Frühgeschichte e.V (DGUF) will also hold their annual conferences during the event, adding a programme of specialist sessions and discussion forums for attendees.

Opportunities for participation

The Archaeology Exhibition Area is open to

- commercial archaeological organisations
- heritage agencies and planning authorities
- museums and research institutions
- universities and training providers
- suppliers of excavation, recording and analytical equipment
- organisations working in cultural tourism and outreach



Credit: Büro für Archäologie Neupert, Kozik & Simm
GbR_Markus Hirnich

The trade fair offers opportunities to showcase services, research and technology to a broad professional audience. It also provides space for employers and prospective employees to connect. Registration information can be found on *denkmal*'s website at <https://www.denkmal-leipzig.de/de/ausstellen/ausstellungsbereich-archaeologie/>

A professional meeting point in Leipzig

Leipzig offers a diverse cultural environment, with museums, historic sites and research institutions located close to the exhibition centre, making it a fitting venue for European heritage professionals.



Svenja Partheil

Svenja is an anthropologist and head of finds management at SPAU GmbH. She studied biology with a focus on anthropology and worked freelance in physical anthropology before moving into corporate archaeology in 2020. Since 2024, she has served as President of ClfA Deutschland.



Sascha Piffko

Sascha is the Managing Director of SPAU GmbH, a leading archaeological service provider in Hesse. He studied archaeology, history and law in Giessen and is a founding member of ClfA Deutschland, where he serves on the advisory board.

