

Evidence for THE Impact Rankings Questionnaire

University : Cyprus International University
Country : North Cyprus- Türkiye
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Cyprus International University (CIU), through its **Center for Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Conservation**, is a leader in safeguarding Cyprus's rich cultural heritage. Our work directly supports and protects archaeological sites, conserving historical assets, and ensuring these treasures are accessible to the public for education and enjoyment, thereby fostering a sustainable connection between the community and its history.

1. Core Mission: Public Access and Stewardship

Established in 2009, the Center's core objectives are intrinsically linked to making heritage accessible:

- To protect and conserve the archaeological and cultural heritage of Cyprus for **present and future generations**.
- To increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of our cultural heritage by facilitating and actively promoting **public access to cultural heritage sites and monuments**.
- To encourage and promote **public participation** in cultural heritage preservation, fostering a sense of shared ownership and identity.
- To foster a sense of belonging and identity, through cultural heritage, that represents the unique multicultural society;
- To enhance cooperation with local and overseas institutions to promote cultural heritage preservation, education, and training;
- To promote tourism through innovative cultural heritage projects, restoration and conservation as well as museum and site presentation works.

2. Key Initiatives

- The Tatlısu/Akanthou Archaeopark & Neolithic House

A prime example of our commitment to **public access** is the ongoing **Tatlısu/Akanthou Archaeopark project**. This initiative transforms an active archaeological site into an open-air museum, creating a permanent, sustainable resource for the community and visitors.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Müge Şevketoğlu, Director of “Center for Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Conservation” of Cyprus International University (CIU) and the Head of the “Tatlısu/Akanthou Rescue Excavations” attended an international event where she gave information about the works carried out firstly on “Preservation of the Archaeological Environment: Akanthou/Tatlısu Excavation” and secondly on the Archaeopark open air museum project planned to be built near Tatlısu Çiftlikdüzü.

For more information: <https://www.ciu.edu.tr/en/news/ciu-continuing-shed-light-historical-archaeology-cyprus>

The center is committed to serving our community as stewardship of cultural resources ensuring they will be available for future generations; thus, our objective is:

For more information about the completed projects of the center, please visit:

<https://ciu.edu.tr/en/research/research-centers/archaeology-cultural-heritage-and-conservation/achc-projects>

Some examples:

Neolithic House

This Stone Age house is located in the area where excavations were carried out within the scope of the Tatlısu-Çiftlikdüzü (Akanthou-Arkosykos) Rescue Excavation and Research Project. While this Stone Age house is an example of reconstruction work during the Neolithic period pertaining to Cyprus house architecture, dated back to around 8400-7000 BC, the remains were found during the excavation. The house was built by Tatlısu Municipality and many volunteers, with funding from UNDP-PFF. The Stone Age house is open to visitors of all ages and free of charge during the excavations. Visitors can both observe the excavations and examine the Stone Age house closely during their visit where various information is given, making the visit even more meaningful.



3. Impact on Sustainable Development

By providing **free public access** to significant historical sites and monuments like the Neolithic House, CIU:

- **Safeguards Cultural Heritage:** Protects vulnerable sites through active research and conservation.
- **Promotes Inclusive Education:** Makes cultural education accessible to all socio-economic groups.
- **Strengthens Community Identity:** Fosters a sense of belonging and pride in the island's unique multicultural history.
- **Encourages Sustainable Tourism:** Develops innovative cultural heritage projects that serve as sustainable tourism resources.



For more information, please visit:

- New Published Articles:

<https://ciu.edu.tr/en/research/research-centers/archaeology-cultural-heritage-and-conservation/achc-publications>