

## ***ILUCIDARE Special Prizes 2020 for ‘Archaeology for a young future’***

by **Hiba Qassar**

On November 2020 the *ILUCIDARE Consortium*, including *Europa Nostra* and the *European Commission* have announced ‘Archaeology for young future’ as the winner in the first edition of the *ILUCIDARE Special Prizes*.

### **About the prize**

The *ILUCIDARE Special Prizes* aims to put a spotlight on European change-makers in heritage-led innovation and international relations.

The *European Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards* are run by *Europa Nostra* in partnership with the *European Commission* since 2002 and is widely recognised as **Europe’s top honour** in the field of cultural heritage.

The *ILUCIDARE project* demonstrates and advocates for the importance of cultural heritage as a driver for innovation which improves our society at large as well as people-to-people international relations.

### **‘Archaeology for a young future’ as a winner**

As winners of this special prize, the Urkesh project for schools, became an active member of the *ILUCIDARE Champions Programme* which is a tailor-made excellence programme together with European and international experts as well as the *ILUCIDARE* partners. The Programme is meant to provide the winners with a space to share their achievements and good practices, expand their networks, find suitable solutions to the encountered challenges and upscale their success.

By the end of November the *ILUCIDARE* team had a preliminary meeting with the AVASA director, Stefania Ermidorio and the ‘One-on-One project’ coordinator, Hiba Qassar, to discuss further the school project, its developments and the challenges in general. This meeting was dedicated mainly to understand who might be useful to participate in the atelier in which the developments of the project and its possible implementation in other places were to be discussed.

Another meeting took place by the end of January 2021 to discuss the atelier participants and the possible role of each expert in the project’s development.

### **The Outcomes of the atelier**

The atelier was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 and started by a brief presentation that included

the description of the original school project, the development into the ‘One-on-One project’ to adapt to the COVID-19 measures, the impact of the project, what we are looking to achieve and the challenges that we are facing.

The experts were enthusiastic about the project and the discussion led to bring out important advices and opportunities to increase the project’s visibility and to get more schools involved in different places around the world.

### **Best practices in heritage studies**

One of the first concrete steps to increase the projects’ visibility was through the ILUCIDARE website itself (<https://ilucidare.eu/>) by dedicating a special webpage to the project. The aim of this space is to give a special visibility to the school project and the ‘One-on-One project’ as the best practices to encourage dialogue among nations at young age through heritage.

### **The Urkesh ‘One-on-One project’ in South America**

Experts from Ecuador, Columbia, and Mexico were interested in presenting the project to local authorities in their countries. In this regard, the project was considered a dynamic project that can respond to the needs of a completely different social context.

This was further discussed in a following session that included EU delegations in Latin American countries and other representatives of local authorities in these countries. These meetings were mainly to coordinate with our team in order to apply the project in the new context, considering the challenges that Latin American countries are going through: such as the digital gap, language problems, and social gap between the poor (in public schools) and the rich (in private schools). The communication has led to a planned collaboration between students from Ecuador and Spain. The program will take place in February-March 2022.