

Call for papers

The anniversary meeting 2026 of the DEGUWA - German Society for the Promotion of Underwater Archaeology e.V. - **IN POSEIDON'S REALM XXXI** - with the topic:

Pontos Axeinos - Pontos Euxeinós* **Underwater archaeology in the Black Sea**

from **May 4th to 10th - 2026 in Batumi, Georgia**

will be organized in close cooperation with the “LEPL - Ajara Museum”.

The “Adjara Museum” is an association of seven museums. It implies a new understanding of the museum in terms of content and concept and the transformation of its activities according to modern standards.

1. Khariton Akhvlediani Museum
2. Amiran Kakhidze Archaeological Museum
3. Art Museum
4. Brother Nobels Technological Museum
5. Ilia Chabchavadze Museum
6. Mehmed Abasidze Museum
7. Religion Museum

Georgia is a country in Transcaucasia located on the south-eastern coast of the Black Sea, with its capital in Tbilisi. The country is situated at the junction of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. In the south, it is bordered by Armenia, in the south-east by Azerbaijan, in the north and east by Russia and in the south-west by Turkey. Georgia's mountainous lands lie between the Greater and Lesser Caucasus Mountains.

Ajara – the south-western part of the country – became of the Democratic Republic of Georgia in 1920 and was granted autonomy under the Georgian constitution in February 1921.

Batumi, the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara and Georgia's second largest city, is located on the Black Sea coast close to the Turkish border. Bathys, derived from Greek the “deep harbour”, firstly mentioned by Pseudo-Aristotle in the 4th century BC. Latin Portus Altus with the same etymology is attested at the Tabula Peutingeriana as well.

The best way to get to Georgia is by plane. International airports are located in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi. All airports are served by a network of shuttle buses that provide comfortable access to the destination city. There runs a direct train from Tbilisi to Batumi.

* “Pontos Axeinos” and “Pontos Euxeinós” are two ancient names for the Black Sea that reflect its ambivalent perception in the Greek and Roman worlds. “Pontos Axeinos” (Πόντος Ἀξεινός) means “inhospitable sea”, while “Pontos Euxeinós” means (Πόντος Εὐξεινός) “hospitable sea”.

Until the 8th century BC, the Greek colonists still referred to the “Aksaena”, Scythian: “black” (because of the depth of up to over 2,200 meters) as Axeinos Pontos, on the one hand because of the often difficult weather conditions for shipping with violent storms and long fog banks, and on the other hand in order not to have to share the riches of the coasts with others (Jason Saga).

It was not only through the in-depth research of an international archaeology team in 2018 and the latest interpretations of the flood myth of the flooding of the Black Sea basin that the attention of archaeological experts was drawn to the *Pontus*. Since the 70s, today’s 6 countries bordering the Black Sea have been conducting more or less intensive coastal and underwater research.

The results prove the great importance of the inland sea for trade and cultural exchange from Greek colonization until the present day, as well as its strategic importance for imperial aspirations.

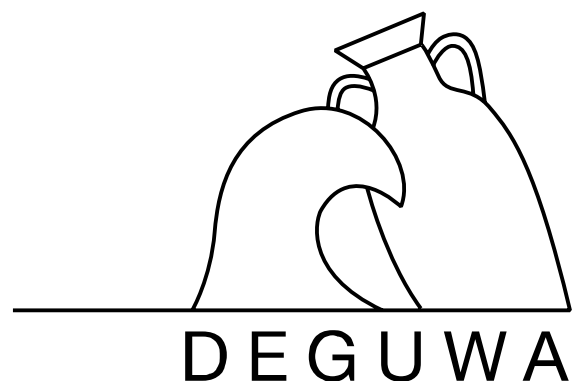
As with all IPR conferences, contributions from all areas of research into underwater archaeology and cultural heritage are appreciated in addition to the main topic.

You are kindly invited to send your application for papers or posters with title and a summary of up to 250 words (plus two figures) to the following e-mail address **not later than October 31, 2025:**

mail@deguwa.org

All papers will be published in SKYLLIS – Journal of Maritime and Limnetic Archaeology and Cultural History. Explanations of the scientific and extensive social program, venues, accommodation, etc. will be provided by December 2025.

Current information can be found at: <http://www.deguwa.org>



The Organizing Committee IPR XXXI