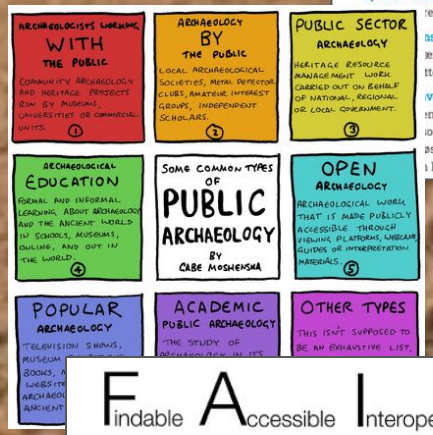
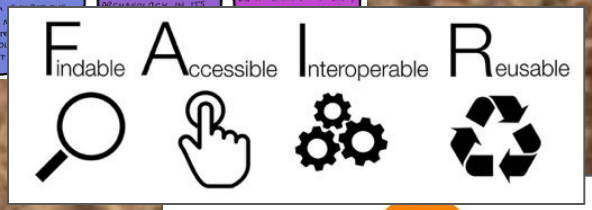
METAL DETECTING AS A CREATIVE COMMUNITY

- the Danish DIME portal

AARHUS UNIVERSITY
MOMU MOESGAARD MUSEUM

Andres S. Dobat (Minos)
Dep. of Archaeology and Heritage Studies & MOMU





The participatory turn

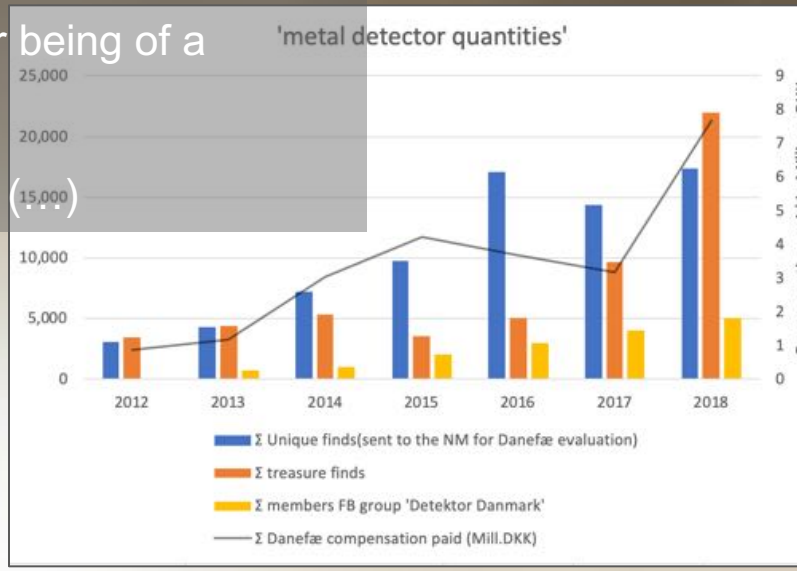
- Citizen science
- Co-creation
- Social relevans policies
- Democratic agenda
- Civic empowerment
- Digital citizenship
- Open/FAIR data

"**A museum is a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches**, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally **and with the participation of communities**, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing."

Approved august 24th, by the 26th ICOM General Conference

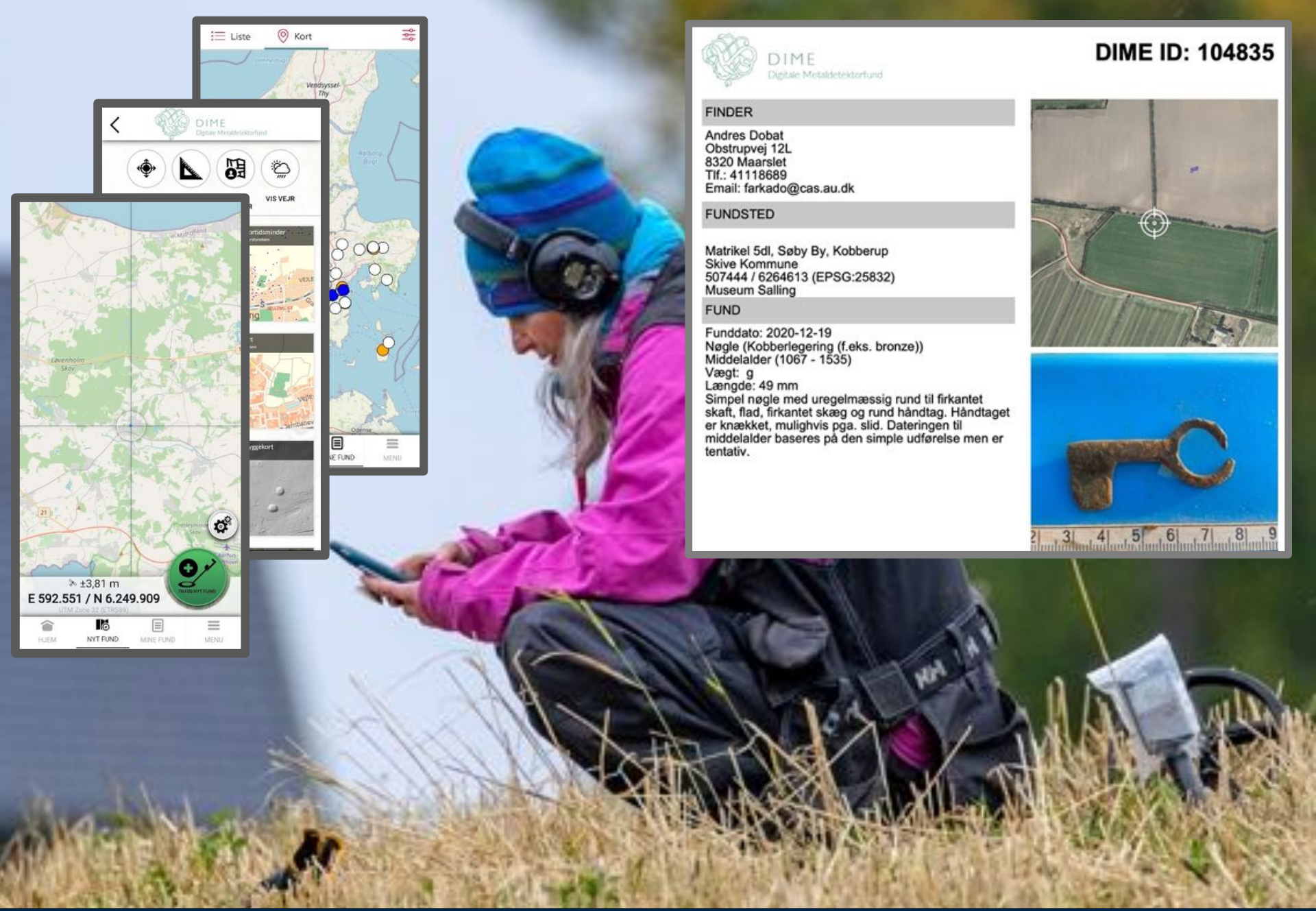
‘Danefæ’ // ‘treasure trove’ Consolidated Act on Museums (§ 30)

(1) *Objects of the past* (…) if made of *valuable material* or being of a special *cultural heritage value*.
(2) Treasure trove *shall belong to the state*. (…)
(3) The National Museum shall pay a reward to the finder (…)



Amateur finder hands over finds to ‘Østfyns Museer’ (Photo: Bo Grønhøj)

Politiken (2. September 2015)



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Creating data at the trowels edge

Users: Museums/heritage sector

Goal: Support administrative practice

- Standardised data (and service)
- Effective processing
- Migration to other data repositories

Usergroup: Finders

Goal: Promote and explore citizen science as tool

- Finders provide data/ knowledge
- Crowd sourcing (user interaction)
- Feedback to finders
- Promote good practice
- Competence building

Users: The public

Goal: Promote public use and appreciation

- Digital exhibitions
- Searchable data
- Contextual information

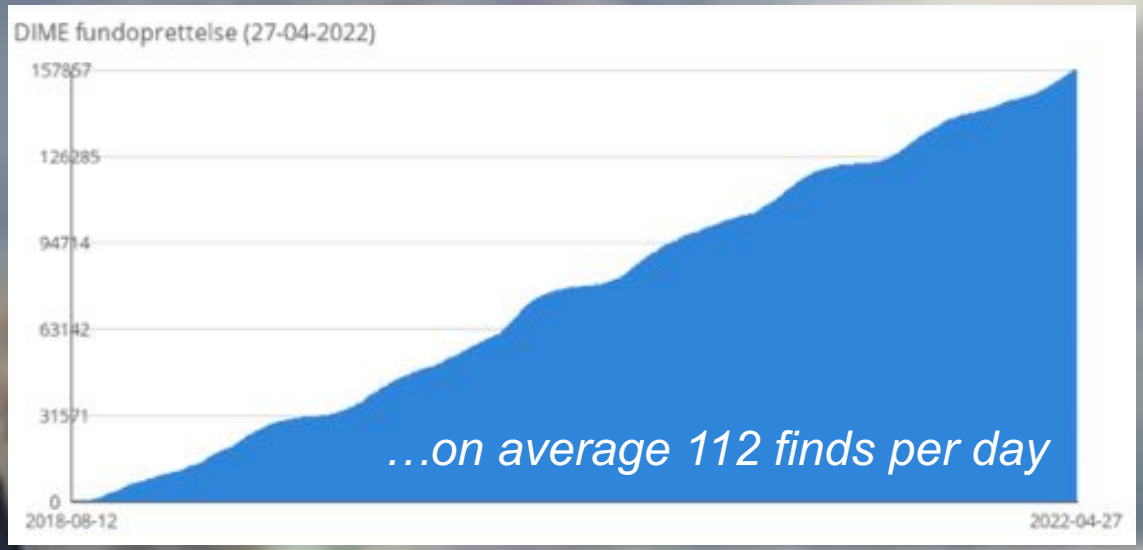
Usergroup: Researchers

Goal: Promote use of detector finds in research

- Fra BIG til DEEP DATA
- FAIR principles
- Citizen science

Since launch (august 2018):

- 3500 users (private finders)
- 167.867 find records
- 31 museums



Facilitate public use and dissemination
Users: The public

- Digital exhibitions (https://www.metaldetektorfund.dk/beta/udstilling/)
- Searchable data
- Contextual information

Danegæld

Blandt de danske metaldetektorfund er der en stor del engelske mønter. Mange er sikkert 'Danegæld' og kom til landet i lommen på danske vikinger, som havde deltaget i togterne mod De Britiske Øer. DIME ID 60656 er præget under kong Aethelred II, som blev kendt som "den rådvilde". Det var under hans regeringstid, at man introducerede begrebet 'danegæld', og i 1002 igangsatte han en massakre på danerne i England. Dette var en af grundene til, at den danske konge Svend Tveskæg indledte sin erobring af England. Mønten DIME ID 60656 er sikkert bragt til Danmark af en af Svend Tveskægs krigere.

Klik her for at se alle Engelske vikingetidsmønter i DIME

'The best invention since the detector'
'It has life much easier for me. MUCH easier!'
'DIME makes me cry tears of joy.
'DIME till I die'
'My finds are all dimed'
Various detector users

'I will never use this shit'
'why should I bother…'
'I want to find things – recording is the professionals job'
"DIME is a surveillance tool used by the museums'
Various detector users

“DIME has lessened our workload per find, which means a lot for us. Apart from saving time, DIME gives us a much better overview.. This makes working with finds and sites much more exciting”
Thomas Guntzelnick Poulsen (Museum Østjylland)

“I am a big fan of DIME. It makes our work much easier and the amateurs are happy”
Kristoffer B. Pedersen, Museum Sydøstdanmark

“We will never be able to use data provided by detector users!”
“The detectorists only use DIME because they want a quicker treasure trove payment”
”Through DIME the universities take away our research data”
Museum professionals about DIME

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The cultural historical angle

- Artefact studies
- Site- or regional studies
- National and transnational studies
- etc.

Heritage angle

- co-creation
- citizen science
- Outreach strategies
- Health and well-being
- etc.

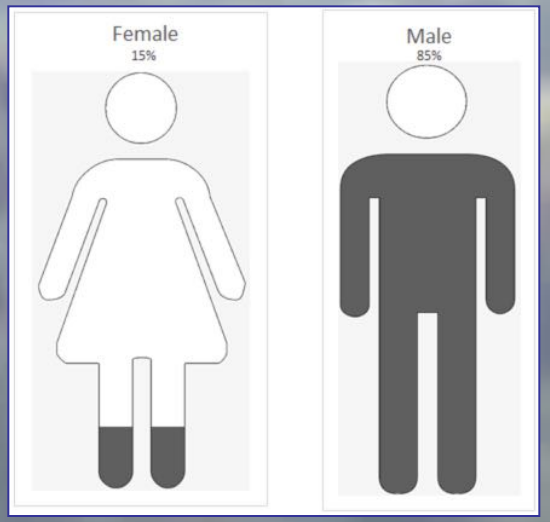
The methodological angle

- Formation processes
- conservation
- Survey strategy
- digital humanities
- etc.

Promote use of detector finds in research
Usergroup: Researchers

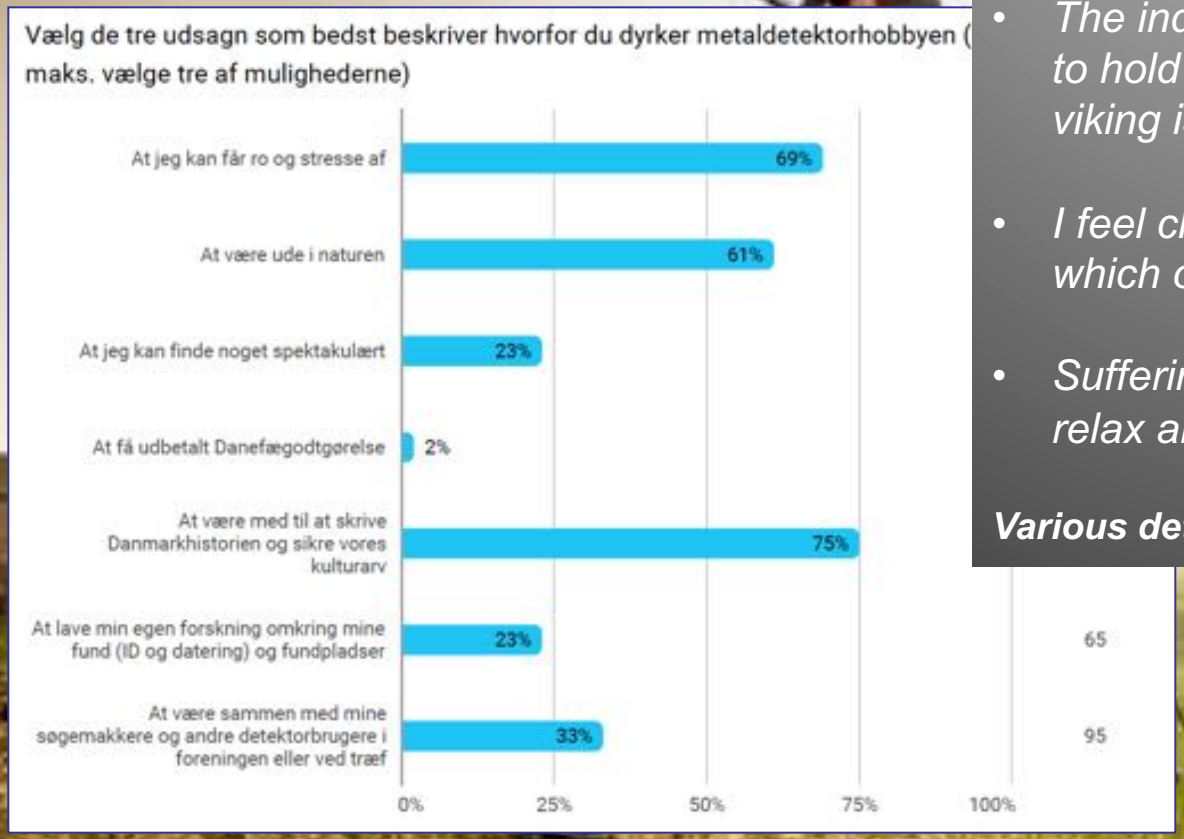
- Fra BIG til DEEP DATA
- FAIR principles
- Citizen science

https://www.metaldetektorfund.dk/ny/fund/?dimeid=173681



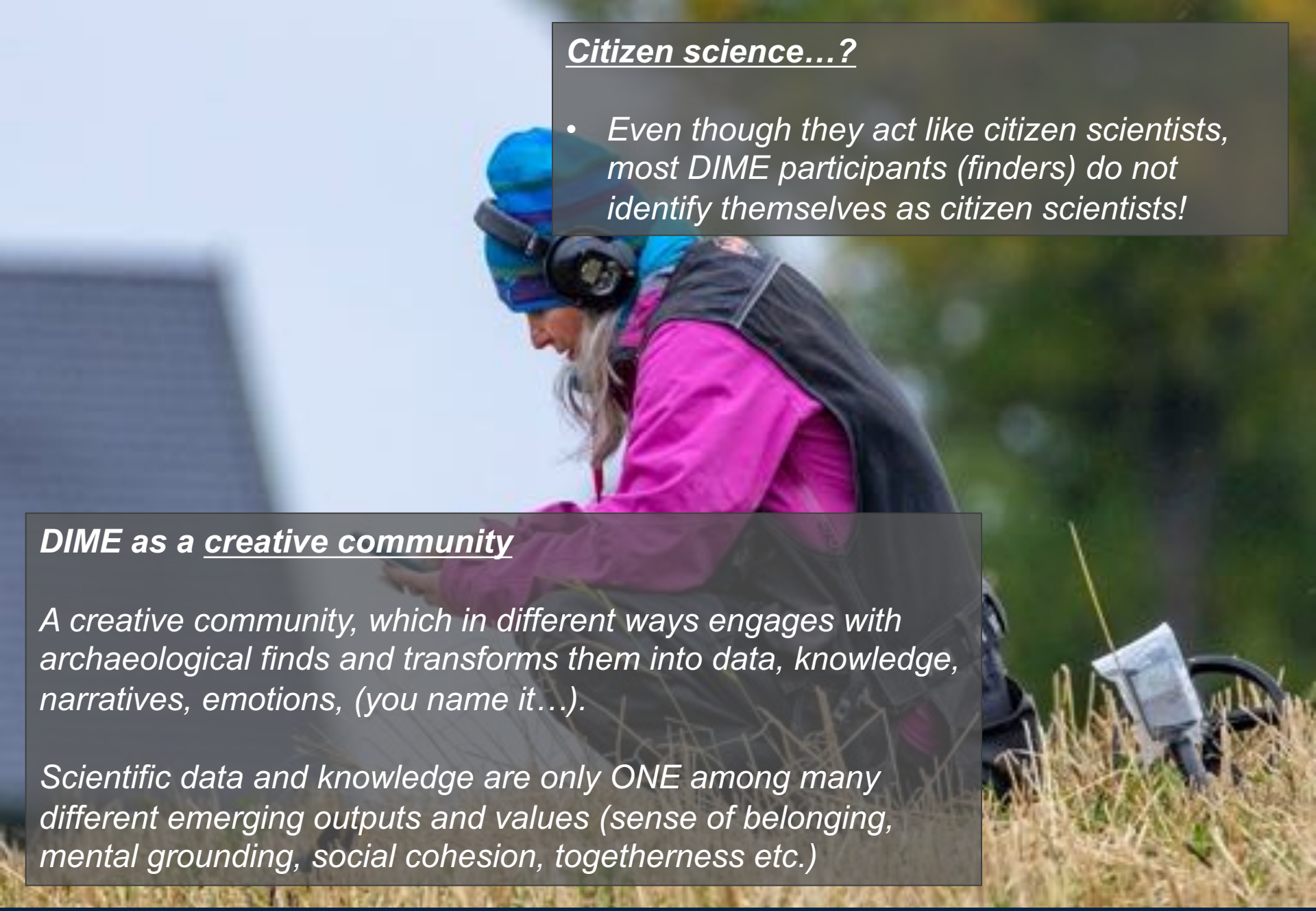
The typical detector user:

A man in his 40ies,
who likes to be outside,
with a (tangible) goal



- *Fresh air, good friends, excitement and exciting knowledge of the past*
- *Its also a hunt. I want to bring home a trophy, the trophy is the treasure trove letter*
- *The indescribable feeling of being the first to hold a thing which last was touched by a viking is fantastic*
- *I feel close and connected to the people which objects I find*
- *Suffering from PTSD it's a good way to relax and reduce my compulsive thinking*

***Various detector users on why they metal* detect**



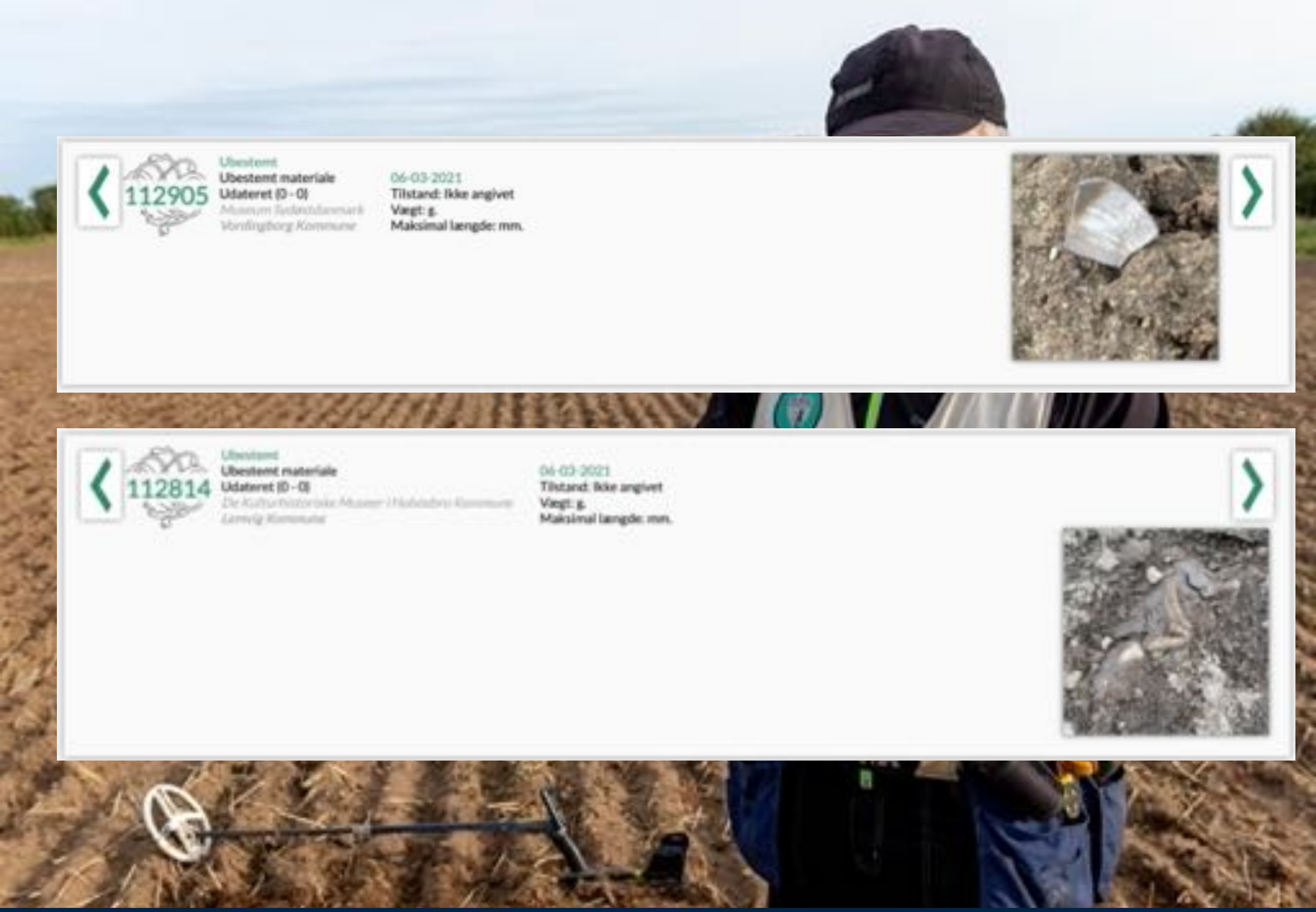
Citizen science…?

- *Even though they act like citizen scientists, most DIME participants (finders) do not identify themselves as citizen scientists!*

DIME as a creative community

A creative community, which in different ways engages with archaeological finds and transforms them into data, knowledge, narratives, emotions, (you name it…).

Scientific data and knowledge are only ONE among many different emerging outputs and values (sense of belonging, mental grounding, social cohesion, togetherness etc.)


Ubestemt
112905
Ubestemt materiale
Udateret (0 - 0)
Museum Sydøstdanmark
Vordingborg Kommune
06-03-2021
Tilstand: Ikke angivet
Vægt: g.
Maksimal længde: mm.
Ubestemt
112814
Ubestemt materiale
Udateret (0 - 0)
Lolland Kommune
06-03-2021
Tilstand: Ikke angivet
Vægt: g.
Maksimal længde: mm.

DIME
Digitale Metaldetektorfund

fakta
Det ta'r kun 5 minutter
-men vi vil så gerne ha', du bli'r lidt længere.
Nilsen Stig. fakta-medarbejder
www.fakta.dk

dime
Det ta'r ikke 5 minutter

- at uploade gode fundbilleder
- at udfylde type og datering
- at udfylde materiale

Det er sund fornuft!

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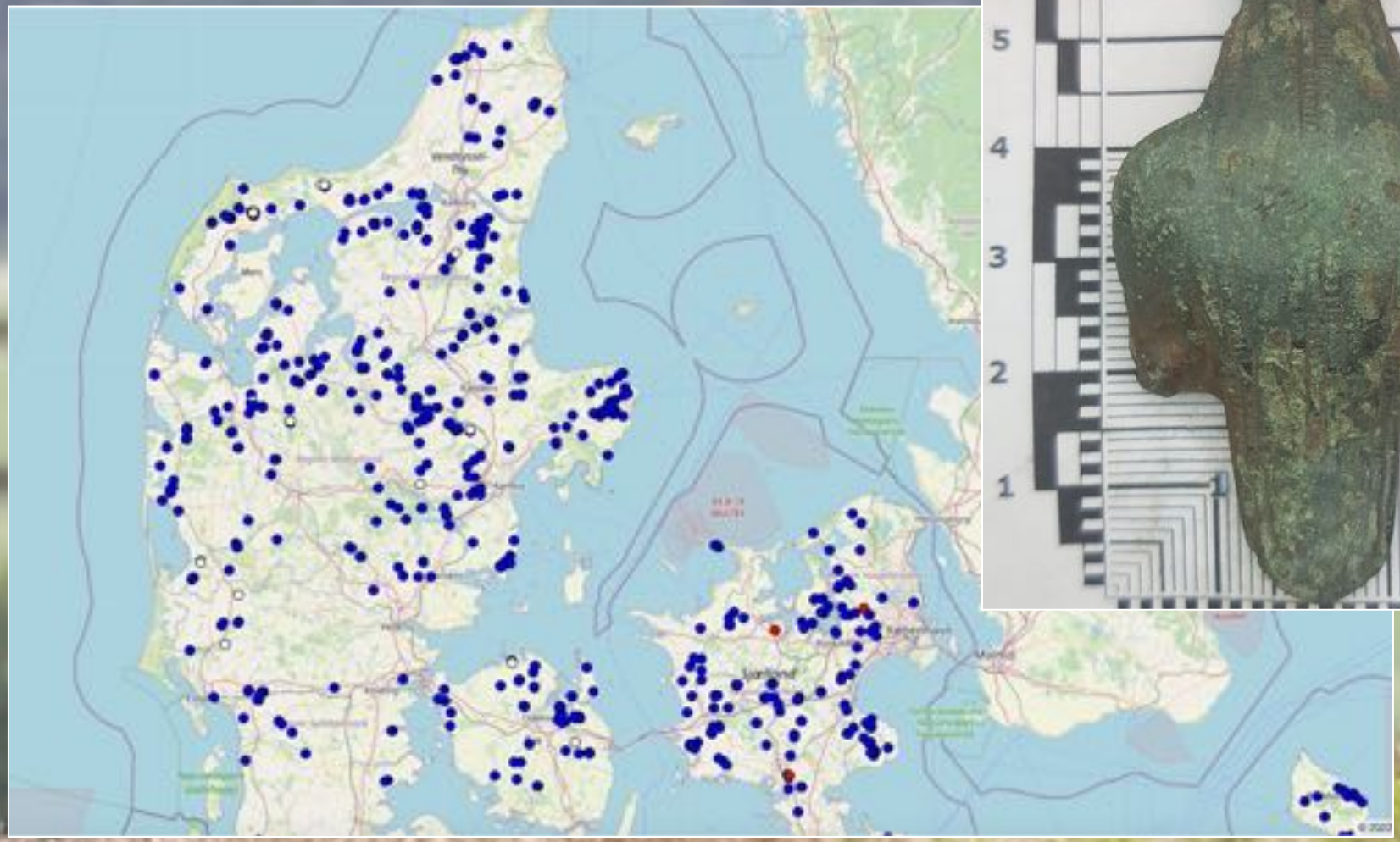

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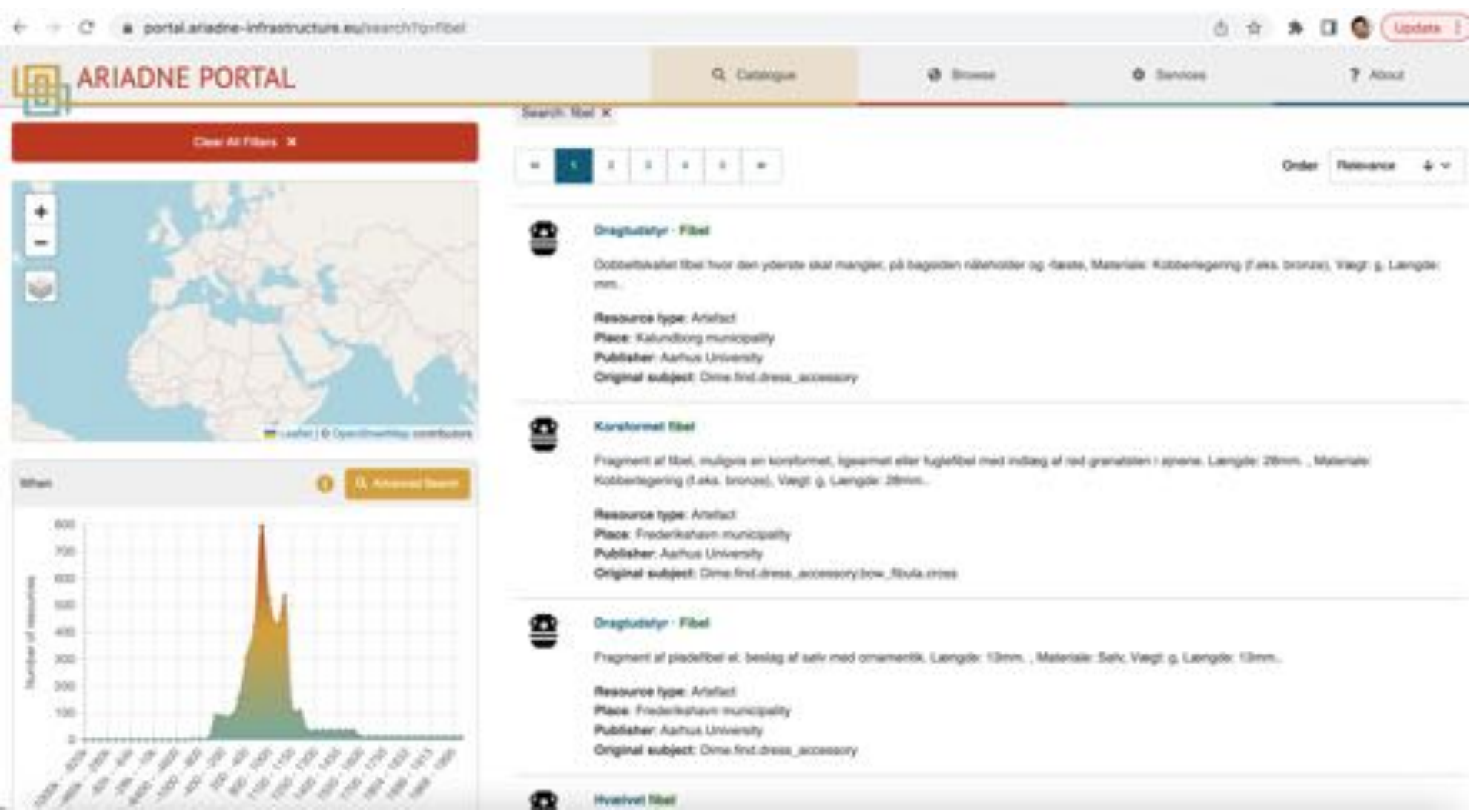
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Relevance
Dragtudstyr · Fibel
Resource type: Artefact
Place: Kalundborg municipality
Publisher: Aarhus University
Original subject: Dime.find.dress_accessory
Konkformet fibel
Resource type: Artefact
Place: Frederikshavn municipality
Publisher: Aarhus University
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Dragtudstyr · Fibel
Resource type: Artefact
Place: Frederikshavn municipality
Publisher: Aarhus University
Original subject: Dime.find.dress_accessory

Challenges of the CS approach:

- *Diverse user group*
- *Data quality*
- *Spatial data sensitivity/protectionism*
- *Different conceptions of archaeology and heritage*
- *Institutional resistance and scepticism*
- *Sustainability*
- *GDPR*
- *Technological obstacles*

… and not all of your users necessarily want to be citizen scientists

Borgerforskning som kulturarvsinnovator

Danefæ og detektorarkæologi som samskabende forskning og kilde til ny viden

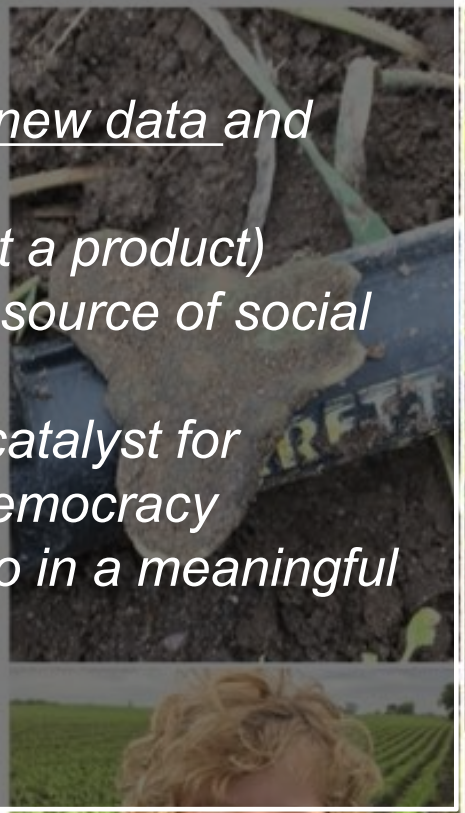
CHR AUGUSTINUS FABRIKKERS FOND

AUGUSTINUS FONDEN

STIFTET 25. MARTS 1942

Archaeology as CS:

- *a new and exciting way of creating new data and doing archaeology*
- *redefines heritage as a process (not a product)*
- *an alternative role for heritage as a source of social cohesion beyond national identity*
- *archaeology as a social asset and catalyst for learning, civic empowerment and democracy*
- *…something we all can contribute to in a meaningful way*



FROM TREASURE HUNTERS TO CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

Metal-detecting and Archaeological Heritage in the Nordic Region Workshop Series 2022-23

⌂ / Århus 2023

ÅRHUS 2023

Århus Workshop: Understanding the social and cultural aspects of metal detecting: practices and attitudes of public finders and of professionals

In this workshop, we focus on the historical and contemporary contexts of how metal detecting relates to professional archaeology across the Nordic regions. The workshop is organized at Moesgaard Museum's Auditorium, which has space to open the workshop also to the wider public.

The workshop will take place **27-28th April 2023 in Århus, Denmark**, coordinated by Associate Prof **Andres Dobat** (Århus University) and Dr **Pieterjan Deckers** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel).

Further information will be published closer to the event date.