

Press release – 3 October 2019

## **Archaeologists of University of Ioannina investigate ancient Thorikos (Greece)**

### **Thorikos: new website on the silver mining town southeast of Athens**

The ancient town of Thorikos in southeast Attica was one of the oldest and wealthiest communities in the ancient Athenian polis. Current orthodoxy has it that the *raison d'être* of Thorikos should be sought in the opulent silver mines of the surrounding Laurion region. This point of view is largely informed by literary accounts claiming that the revenues of the mines paid for Athens' indomitable navy (e.g. Herodotus 7.144), which in turn secured the city's political and cultural hegemony in the Classical period (ca. 480-323 BC) and paid for its democratic institutions. Within the larger archaeological research program on the site of Thorikos directed by Prof. Roald Docter of Ghent University under the auspices of the Belgian School at Athens and the Ephorate of Eastern Attica, a team of the University of Ioannina will add new insights to this narrative.

Under the direction of Alexandra Alexandridou and within the frame of the Thorikos Project, the material of the old excavations at the necropoleis and a Geometric house at the site will be revisited and processed aiming at a future detailed updated publication.

The contribution of the University of Ioannina is now presented on the new website of the archaeological project at Thorikos that was launched today. Due to the international character of the project with more than 40 collaborators from 12 different universities and research centers, the introductory page has been made available in English, Greek, Dutch, French, German, Italian, and Swedish.

The website, [www.Thorikos.be](http://www.Thorikos.be), gives a full overview of the ancient site and old and new archaeological research there, with numerous photographs and plans illustrating the rich past and importance of Thorikos.

Where: <https://www.Thorikos.be>



The Finds lab. Processing pottery. Campaign 2019



Talking about finds at the site. July 2018 (photo: Roald Docter).

More information:

Alexandra Alexandridou  
Assistant Professor of Classical Archaeology  
Department of History & Archaeology  
University of Ioannina  
45110 Ioannina

0030 2651005126  
[aalexandr@uoi.gr](mailto:aalexandr@uoi.gr)