

Cultural Heritage at the ESRF: from the discovery of masters' secrets to the conservation of artworks

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d'archéologie moléculaire et structurale (LAMS), 4 place Jussieu 75005 Paris,
France*

Acknowledgments: all staff involved in maintenance and
development of instruments, and our users

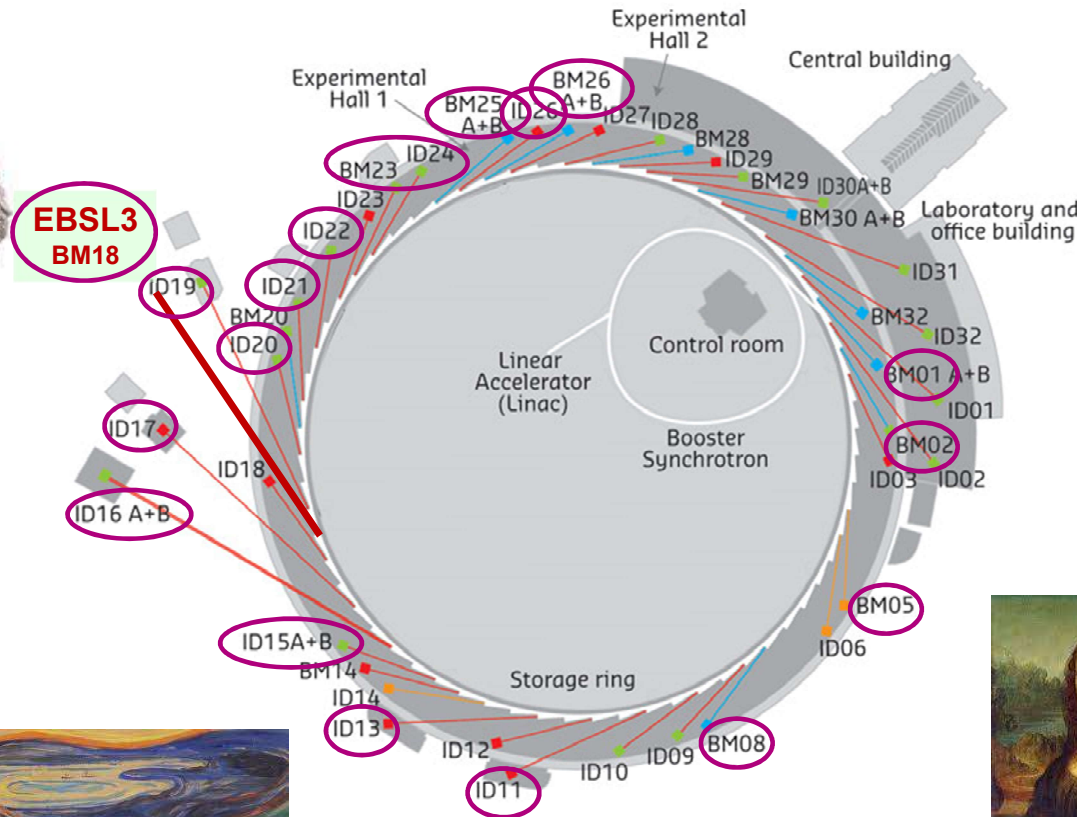


Li-Hill, 2019, Grenoble

HERITAGE AT THE ESRF

○ Heritage studies via user program

X-ray diffraction
X-ray absorption spectroscopy
X-ray fluorescence
Phase contrast tomography





Li-Hill, 2019, Grenoble

Cultural Heritage at the ESRF: ~~from the discovery of masters' secrets~~ ~~to the conservation of artworks~~ Applications to artefacts from Middle East

M. Cotte^{1,2}

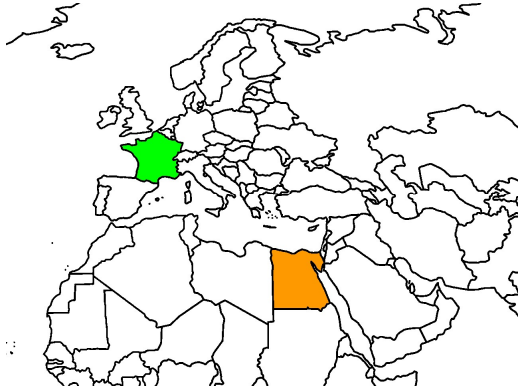
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1- EARLY APPLICATIONS OF ESRF TO HERITAGE: COSMETICS IN ANCIENT EGYPT



WORKS LED BY

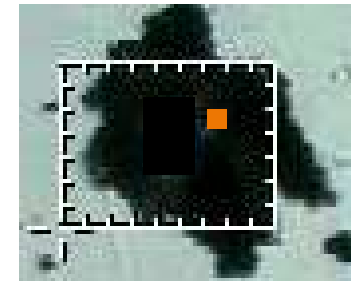
Philippe Walter, Center of Research and Restoration of French Museums, Paris

SAMPLES

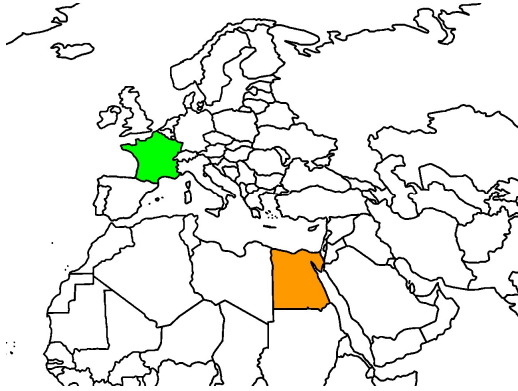
Fragments of cosmetics products, sampled in reeds and vials from the Louvre museum, 18th Dynasty, New Empire (13th C. BC)

QUESTIONS

Can the chemical composition of the cosmetic powders reveal pharmaceutical practices and chemical skills in Ancient Egypt?



1- EARLY APPLICATIONS OF ESRF TO HERITAGE: COSMETICS IN ANCIENT EGYPT



TECHNIQUES

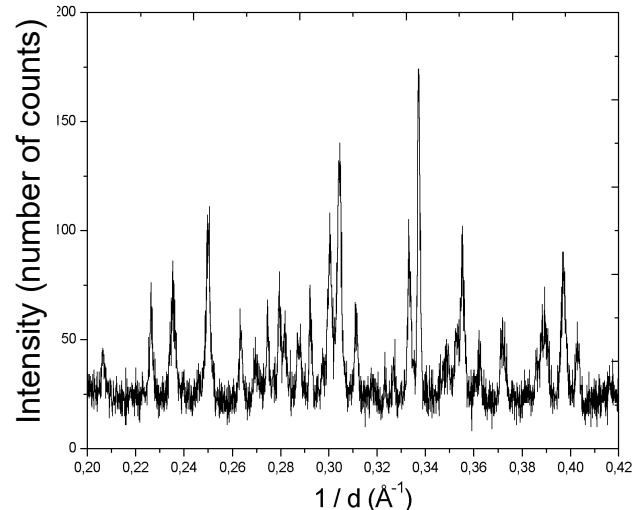
- Powder X-ray diffraction (former BM16)
- Fourier Transform Infrared microscopy (former LURE)

ADVANTAGES OF SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

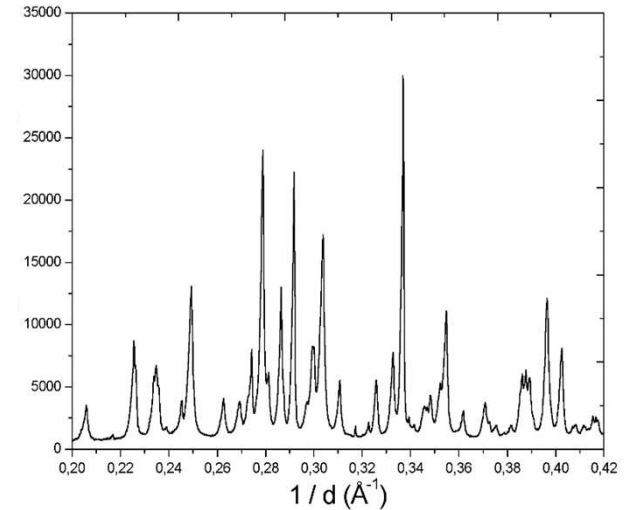
- High data quality even on low quantity
- High resolution for mapping of components in mixtures

RESULTS

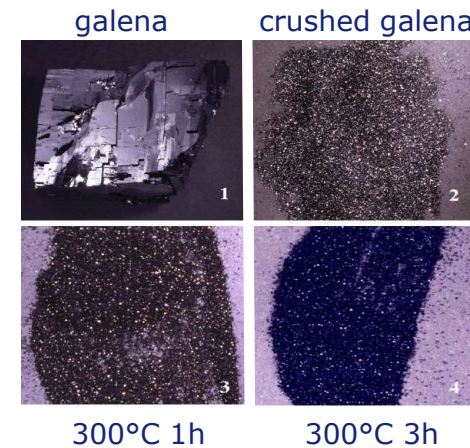
- Signature of heat treatment of galena
- Identification of lead compounds (laurionite, phosgenite), demonstrating the use of “soft” chemistry (in aqueous solution)
- Preparation of hybrid products by reaction of minerals on organic compounds



63 h of acquisition in laboratory



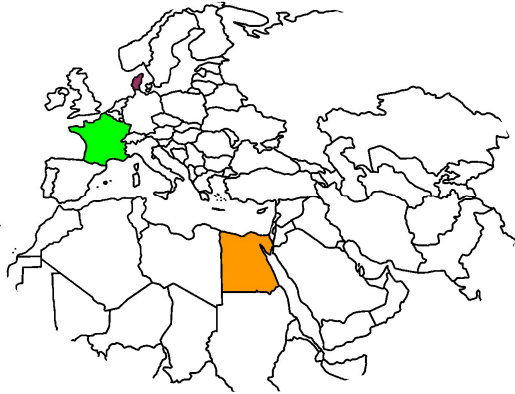
4 h of acquisition at BM 16



300°C 1h

300°C 3h

2- INK COMPOSITION IN EGYPTIAN PAPYRI



WORKS LED BY

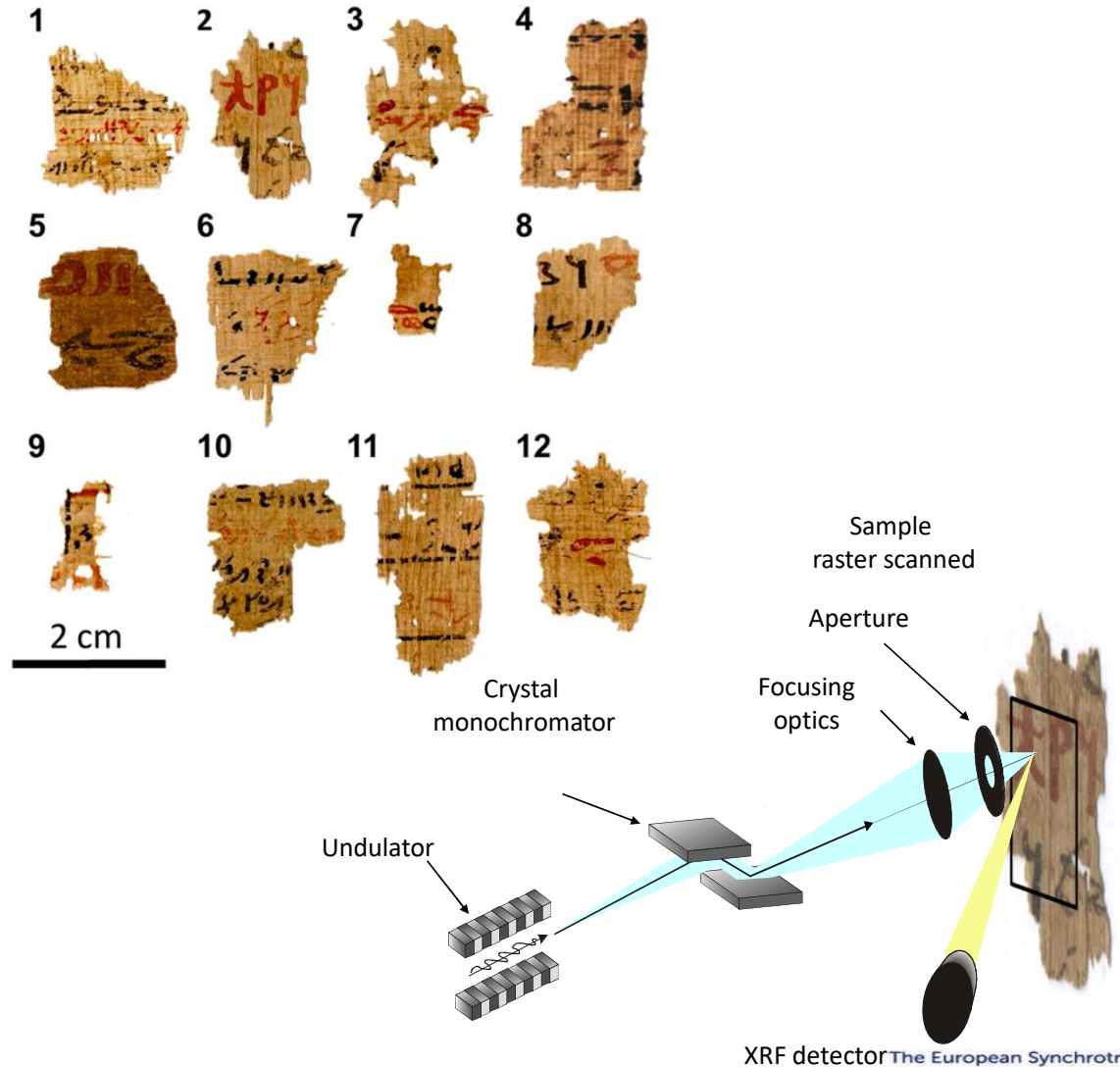
Thomas Christiansen, Sine Larsen,
University of Copenhagen

SAMPLES

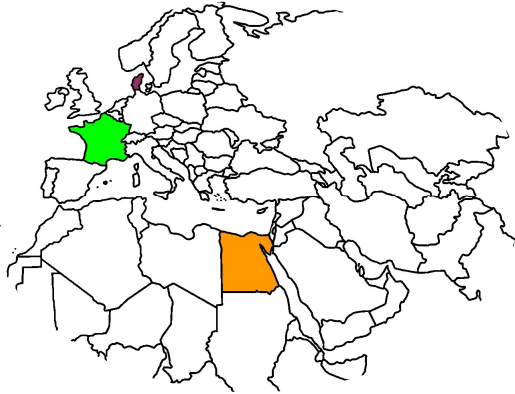
12 fragments of papyri from the Carlsberg
Collection (Tebtunis temple library, 1st-3rd C. CE),
with both red and black inks

QUESTIONS

Which are the components present in inks? A
unique recipe? Iron and lead identified with
laboratory techniques. Which compounds?



2- INK COMPOSITION IN EGYPTIAN PAPYRI



TECHNIQUES

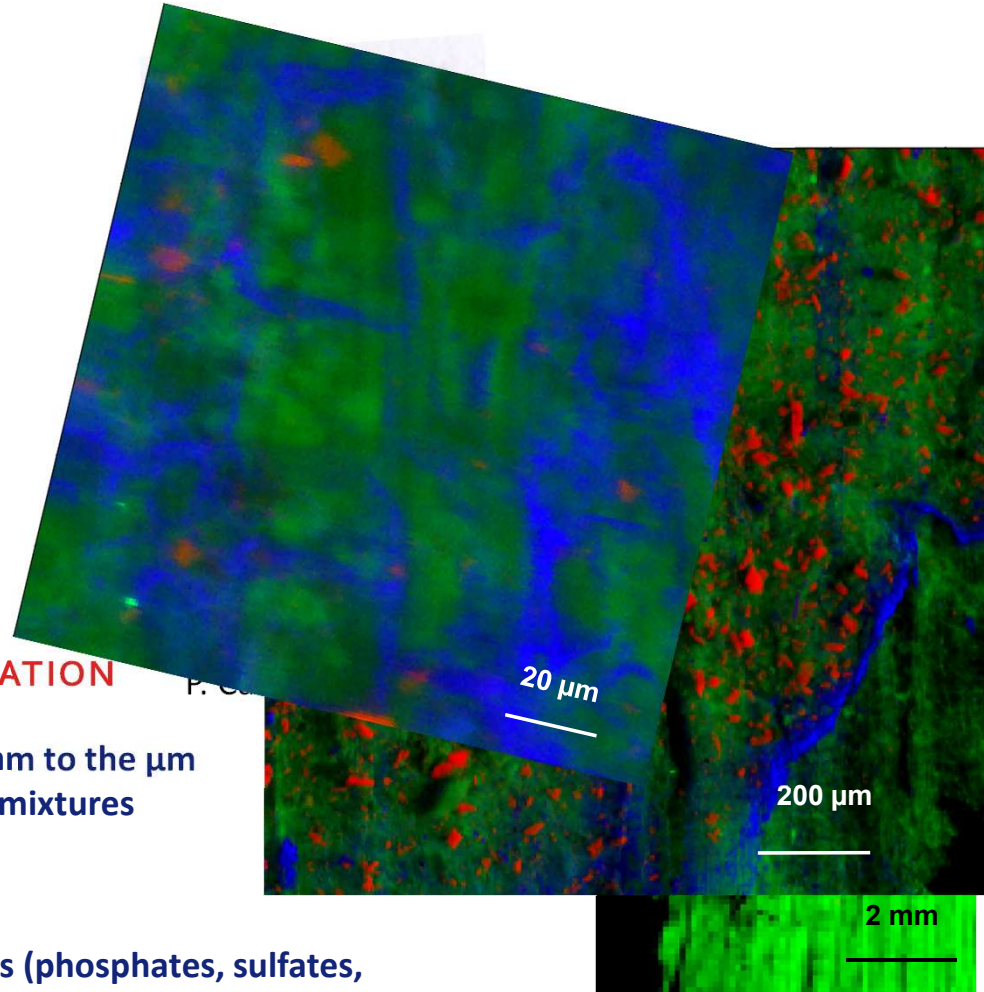
- Macro and micro X-ray fluorescence (ID21)
- Micro X-ray diffraction (ID21)
- Fourier Transform Infrared microscopy (ID21)

ADVANTAGES OF SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

- Possibility to explore the fragments from the mm to the μm
- High resolution for mapping of components in mixtures

RESULTS

Identification of various lead-based compounds (phosphates, sulfates, chlorides, carboxylates). Some are clearly associated with degradation (grey crust); others have an undetermined origin. Composition and distribution suggests the use of lead-based driers



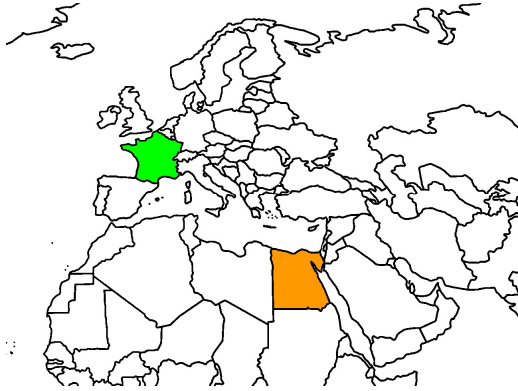
Beam size $0.3 \times 0.7 \mu\text{m}^2$
Pixel size $0.5 \times 0.5 \mu\text{m}^2$

Beam size $0.3 \times 0.7 \mu\text{m}^2$
Pixel size $4 \times 4 \mu\text{m}^2$

Beam size $\varnothing 100 \mu\text{m}$
Pixel size $100 \times 100 \mu\text{m}^2$



3- REVEALING THE MANUFACTURING PROCESSES OF OPAQUE GLASSES



WORKS LED BY

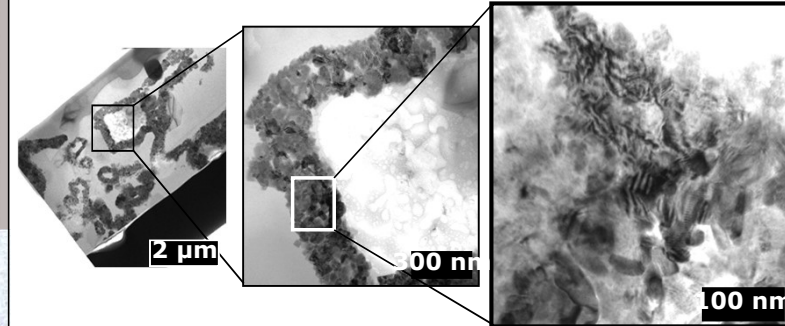
Sophia Lahlil, Isabelle Biron, Center of Research and Restoration of French Museums, Paris

SAMPLES

Fragments of opaque glasses from Egyptian, Roman, French artefacts

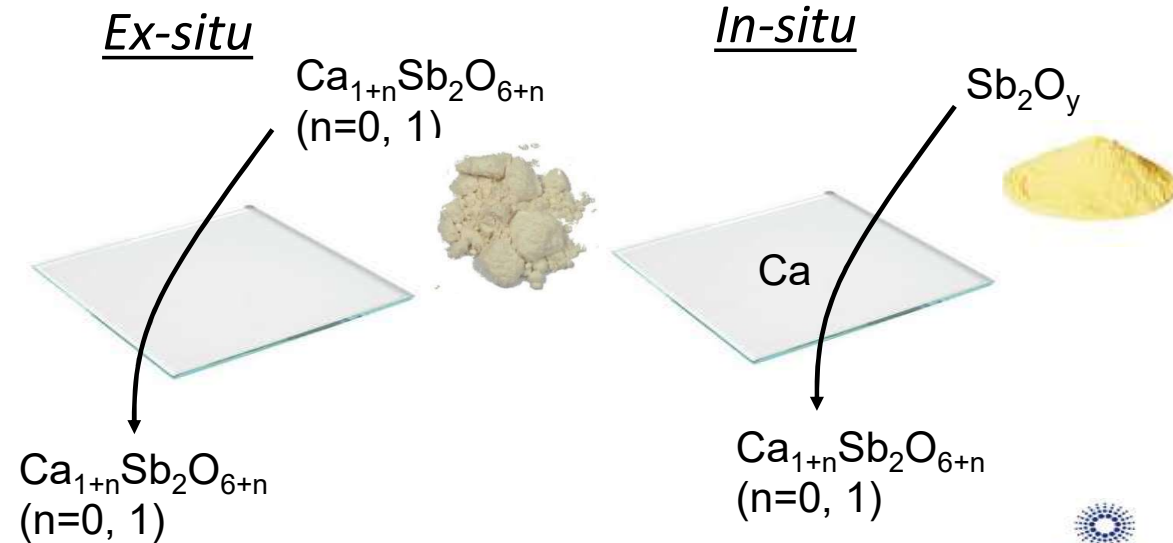
QUESTIONS

Can the chemical composition of glass reveal how these glasses have been manufactured?

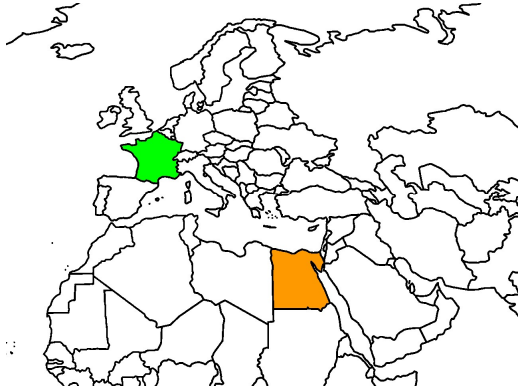


Nano-crystals of calcium antimonate

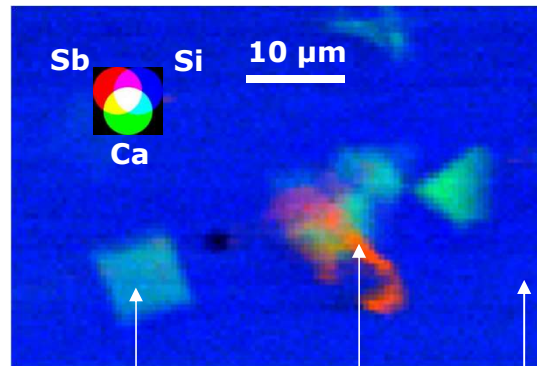
18th Dynasty, (1570-1292 B.C.).



3- REVEALING THE MANUFACTURING PROCESSES OF OPAQUE GLASSES

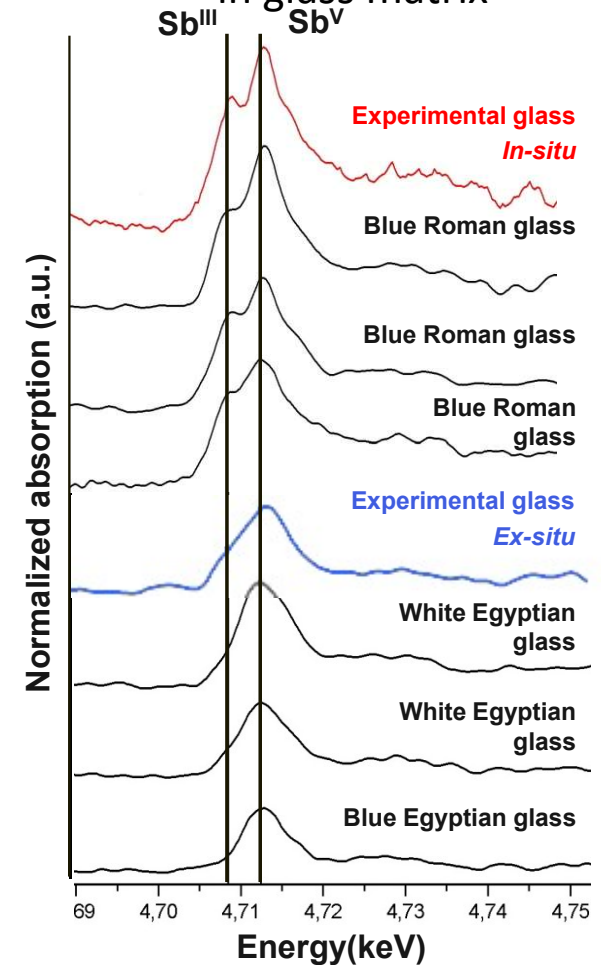


Location of crystals and glass matrix



devitrification crystal calcium antimonate crystal vitreous matrix

Signature of antimony chemical state in glass matrix



TECHNIQUES

Micro X-ray fluorescence map (ID21)

Micro X-ray absorption spectroscopy, Sb L₁-edge (ID21)

ADVANTAGES OF SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

X-ray absorption spectroscopy provides unique information.

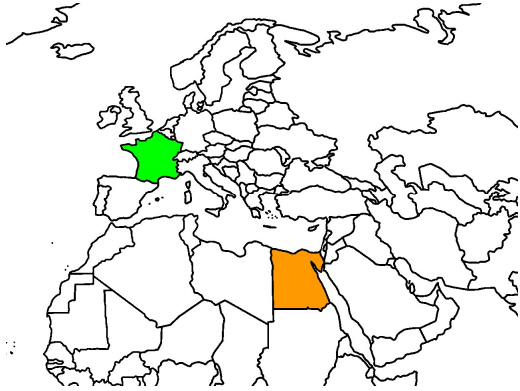
This technique requires a tunable X-ray energy.

+ μm resolution to probe glassy matrix without crystals

RESULTS

Egyptians used the *ex-situ* synthesis, while Romans used the *in-situ* one, probably using Sb₂O₄ as a reactant.

4- OPENING VIRTUALLY A BIRD MUMMY



WORKS LED BY

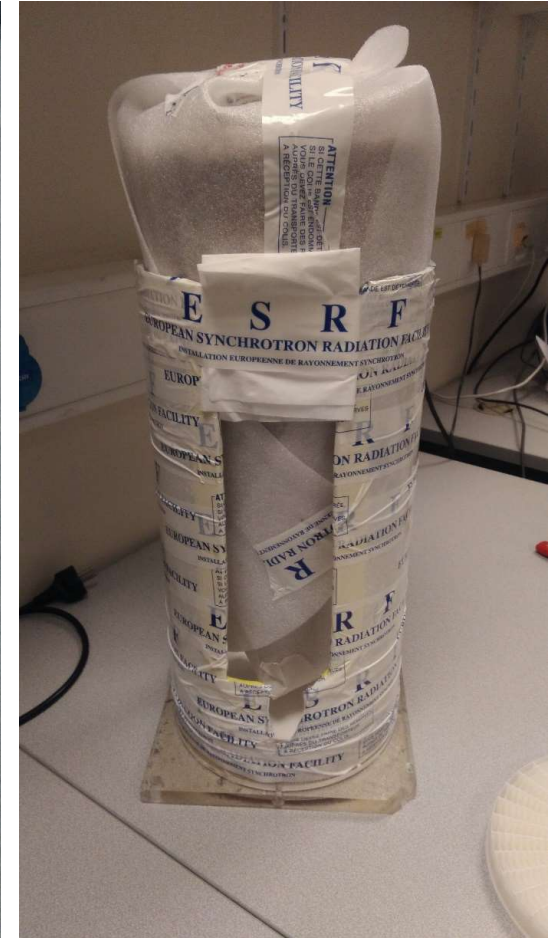
Paul Tafforeau, Camille Berruyer,
ESRF

SAMPLE

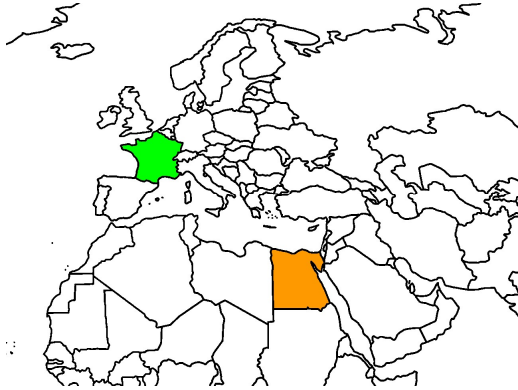
Egyptian Ibis mummy in its sealed jar
curated at the Musée de Grenoble

QUESTIONS

What can we know about the mummification
processes, from the bird to the jar?



4- OPENING VIRTUALLY A BIRD MUMMY



C. Berruyer / P. Tafforeau ESRF

TECHNIQUES

Phase contrast X-ray tomography (BM05)

ADVANTAGES OF SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

Possibility to increase the contrast and to reveal subtle structures

Possibility to work at increasing resolution (hierarchical imaging)

RESULTS

Possibility to distinguish wild / farm animals

Possibility to identify pieces of different animals in a unique mummy

Information about mummification processes

5- PAINTING TECHNIQUE IN BAMMIAN WALL PAINTINGS



WORKS LED BY

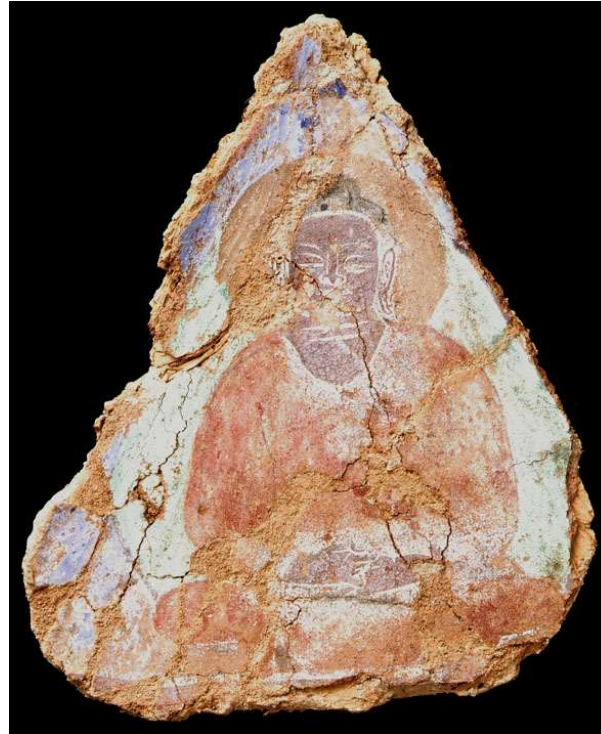
Yoko Taniguchi, Japan Center for International Cooperation in Conservation- National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo

SAMPLES

Fragments of paintings from Bamiyan Buddhist wall paintings, 6th-9th C.

QUESTIONS

Which were the painting techniques? Pigments? Binders?
Connection with other practices along the silk road?
Degradation state?



5- PAINTING TECHNIQUE IN BAMIYAN WALL PAINTINGS



TECHNIQUES

Micro X-ray fluorescence map (ID21, former ID18F)

Micro X-ray diffraction (former ID18F)

Fourier Transform Infrared microscopy (ID21)

ADVANTAGES OF SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

High resolution and mapping capabilities = possibility to detect and locate many components

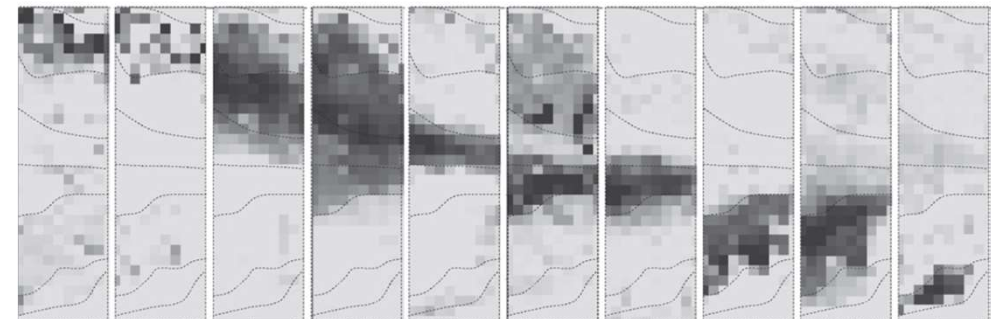
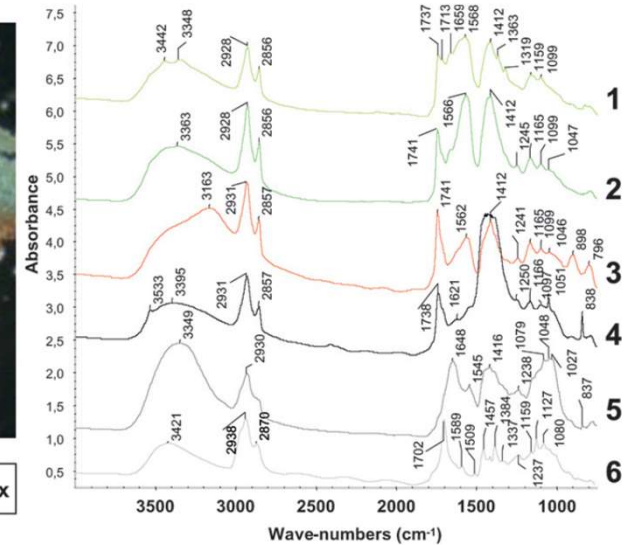
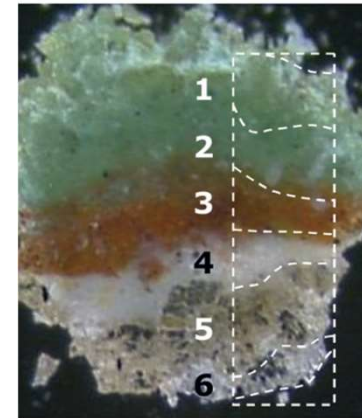
Different complementary X-ray and infrared-based techniques

RESULTS

A very early use of oil painting, presence of metal carboxylates

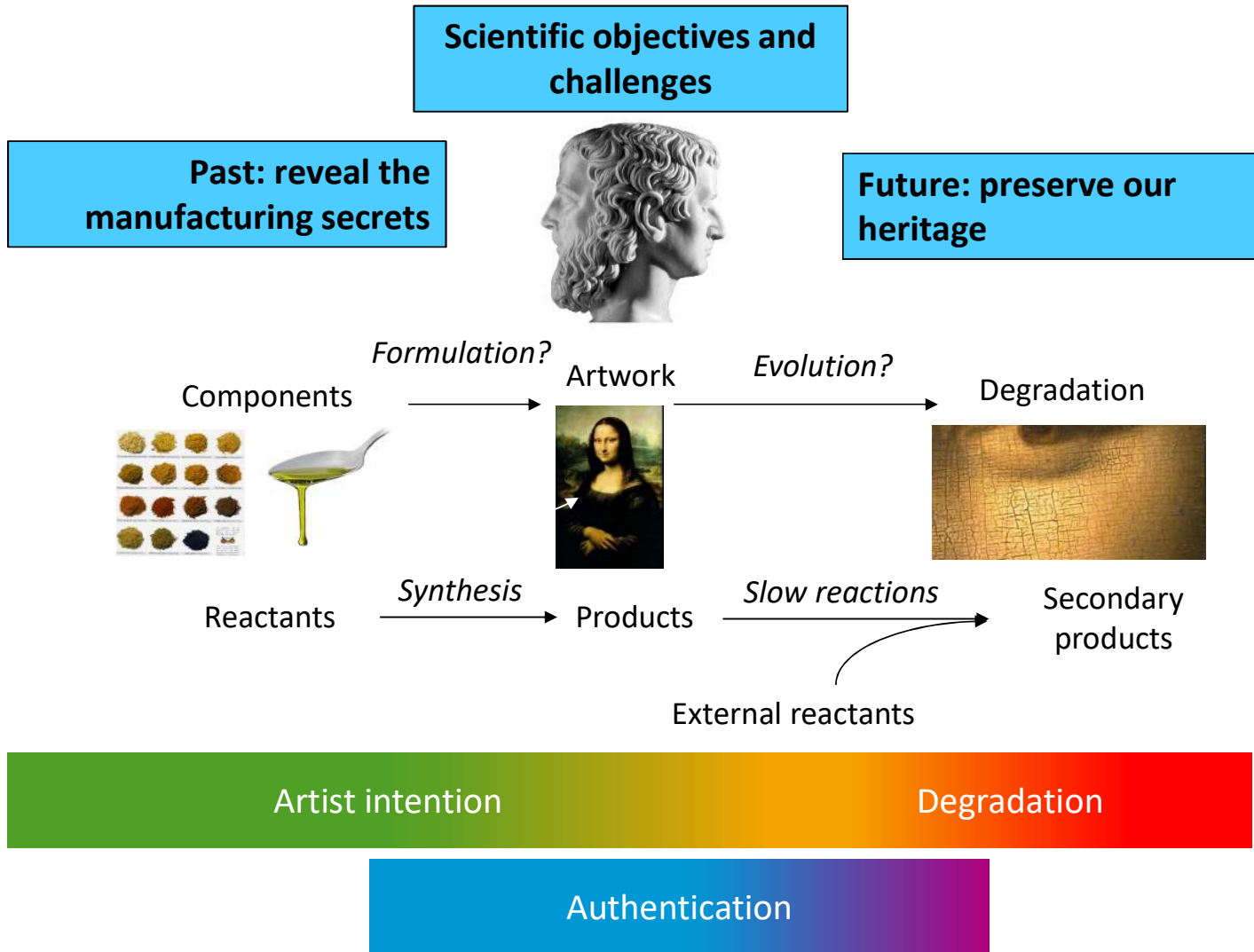
Identification of many pigments, with various compositions

Identification of degradation compounds on the surface (sulfates, chlorides)...



Cu oxalates 1331-1304
Cu hydroxyl chlorides 3382-3305
metallic carboxylates 1643-1496
esters 1763-1720
goethite 941-848
hydrocerussite 3560-3517
cerussite 848-825
amide I 1681-1612
polysaccharides 1107-995
acids 1724-1693

CULTURAL HERITAGE : THE MAIN SCIENTIFIC QUESTIONS

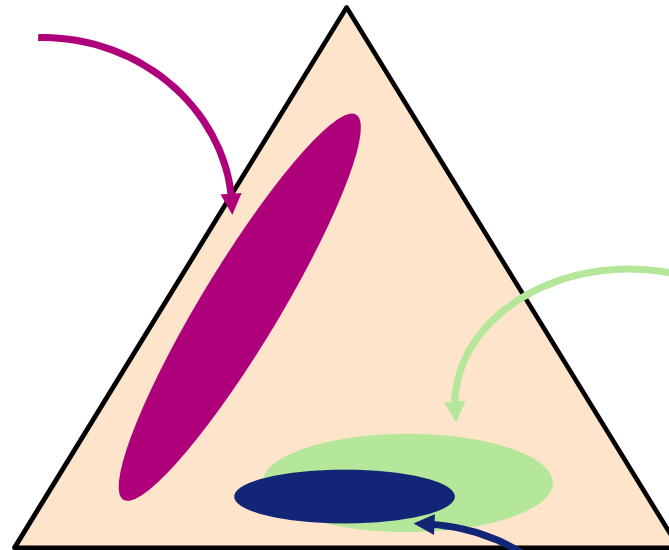


THE ADVANTAGES OF SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

- Many techniques = many contrasts
- High brightness = small beam, intense beam (speed)
- Tunable energy, access to high energies
- High coherence



Field-of-view



Resolution



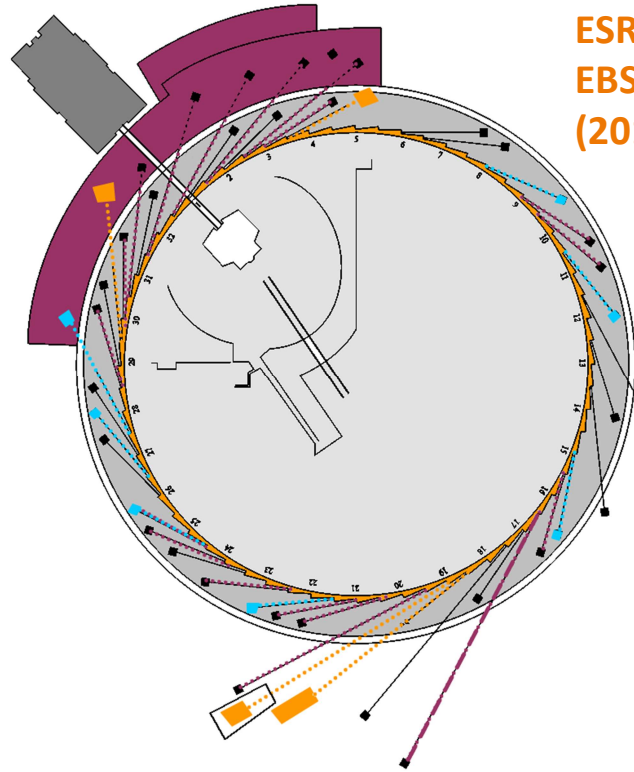
Chemistry

THE ESRF UPGRADE PROGRAMME (2009-2022)



ESRF UPGRADE PHASE I (2009-2015) - 180 M€ :

- 19 new beamlines, many specialised on nano-science
- Upgrade and renewal of facilities and support labs
- *Study for a new high brilliance high energy X-ray storage ring*



ESRF UPGRADE PHASE II EBS: Extremely Brilliant Source (2015-2022) - 150 M€

- A new generation of synchrotron storage ring
- 4 new flagship beamlines and 7 refurbished beamlines
- Detectors and instrumentation
- IT data strategy

Purple Book
January 2008



The
Orange Book
January 2015



BM18: A NEW BEAMLINE DEDICATED TO X-RAY PHASE CONTRAST TOMOGRAPHY

BM 18 specifications

- 220 m long beamline
- Smallest possible source in the ESRF-EBS new lattice
- 30 cm wide beam in polychromatic mode
- 45 m long experimental hutch
- Fully designed to ensure highest possible coherence level
- Up to 38m of propagation distance for phase contrast imaging

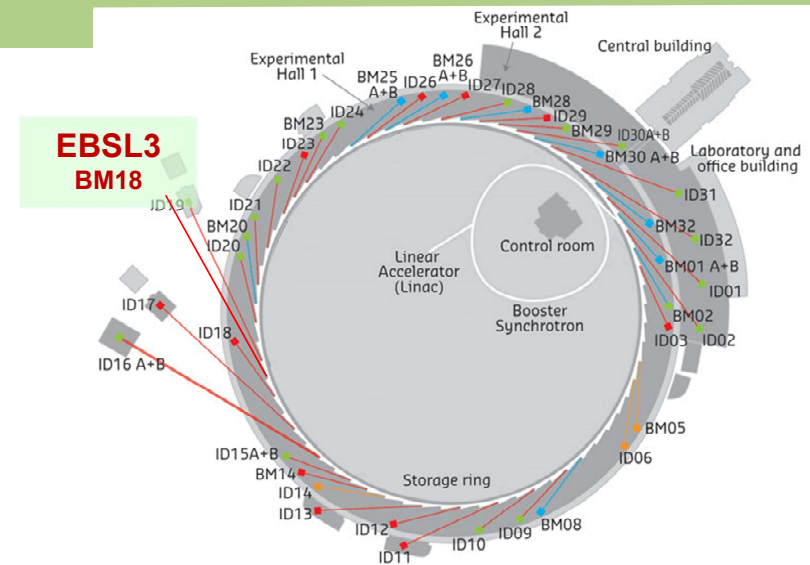
Energy range: 35-350 keV

Sample size: max 300 kg, 2.5m in height

Multi-detectors is for multi-resolution.

- 0.7 μm for the smallest
- 1-27 μm on a continuous range,
- 47 μm
- 200 μm

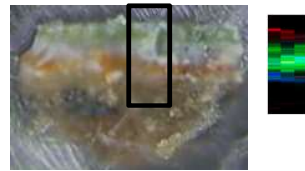
Only one sample stage => it will be possible to scan any part in high resolution by selecting it from a scan at lower resolution (a single 3D repository)



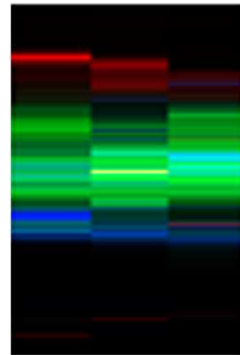
EBS FOR MICRO-PROBE BEAMLINES



Dec 2006
former ID18F beamline
map size: $150 \times 60 \mu\text{m}^2$
pixel size: $1 \times 20 \mu\text{m}^2$
15s / pixel (5s acq. + 10s lead time)
Total of 1h52



100 μm



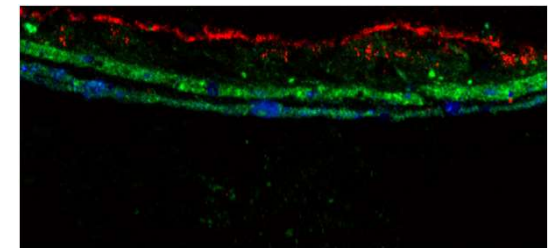
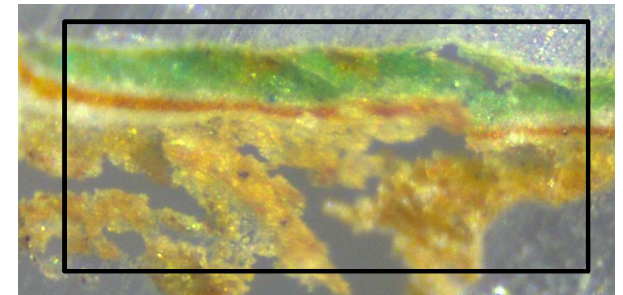
palmierite



hydrocerussite

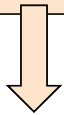
cerussite

Nov 2021
ID13 beamline
map size: $800 \times 370 \mu\text{m}^2$
pixel size: $1 \times 1 \mu\text{m}^2$
0.016s / pixel (10ms acq. + 6 ms lead time)
Total of 1h18



BEYOND DATA COLLECTION

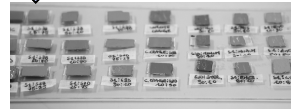
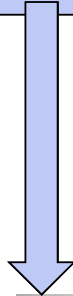
- New access models
- New communities
- User outreach



Users

- ↗ More users
- ↗ New users
- ↗ More diverse users

- New sample management tools
- New sample environments
- Automation



Samples

- ↗ More samples
- ↗ More diverse samples

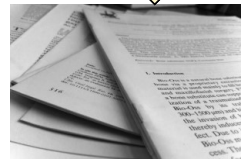
- New source (EBS)
- New/ refurbished beamlines
- New techniques



Data

- ↗ Quantity
- ↗ Quality
- ↗ Complexity

- New tools for data collection, on-line analysis, machine learning routines



Results

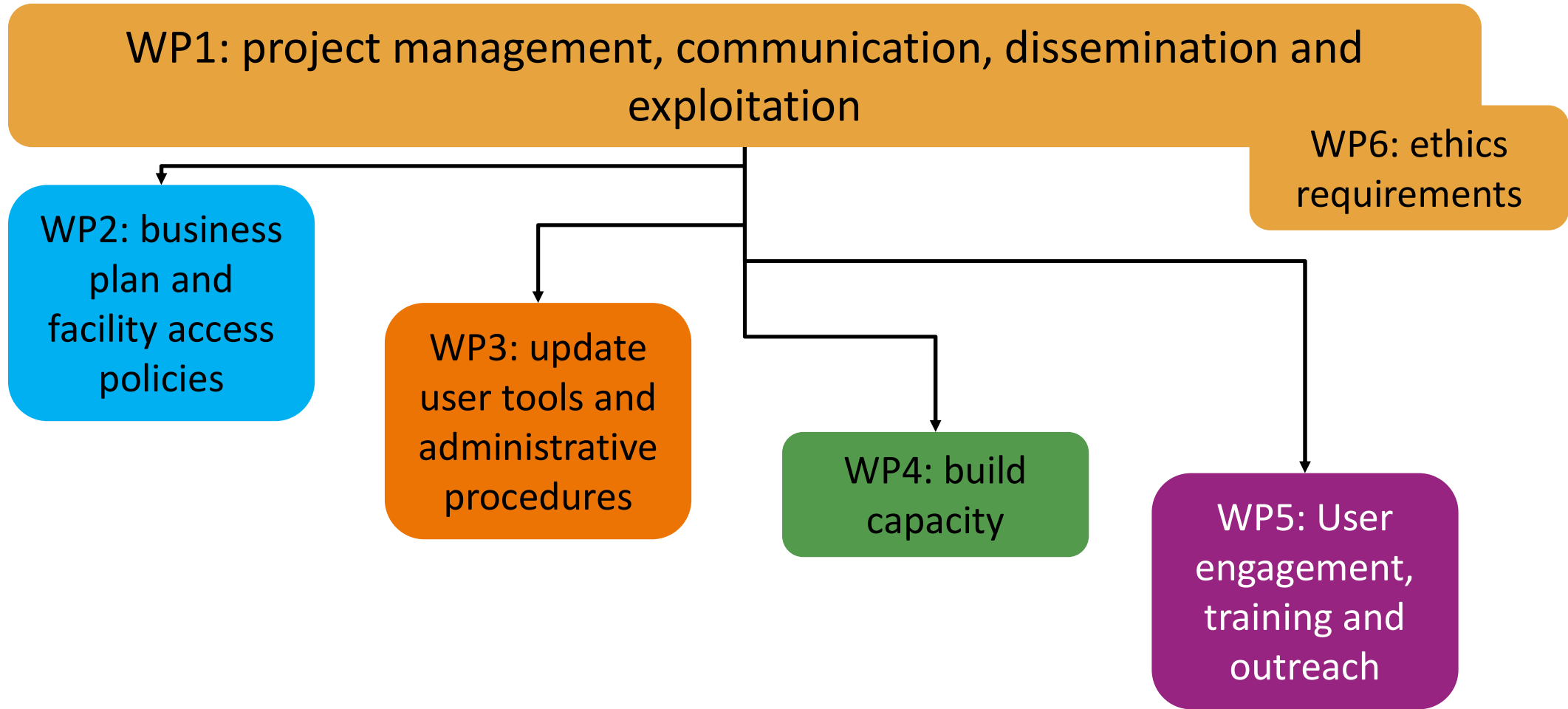
- ↗ Quantity
- ↗ Quality
- ↗ FAIR



The STREAMLINE project

Sustainable research at micro and nano X-ray beamlines

THE STREAMLINE PROJECT



THE “HISTORICAL MATERIALS” BAG



Delft University of Technology



RIJKS MUSEUM



11 European teams

- ENS Paris-Saclay: V. Gonzalez
- CNR-SCITEC: L. Monico
- Courtauld Institute of Art: A. Nevin, A. Burnstock
- Politecnico di Milano: D. Comelli
- Rijksmuseum: K. Keune
- IRCP/C2RMF: I. Reiche
- Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya: N. Jiménez
- ESRF: M. Cotte
- IRCP: G. Wallez
- University of Antwerp: K. Janssens
- TU Delft: M. Alfeld

Access to ID22 (6 shifts, HR-XRPD) and ID13 (12 shifts, μ XRD/ μ XRF) every 6 months for 2 years



<https://www.esrf.fr/BAG/HG172>

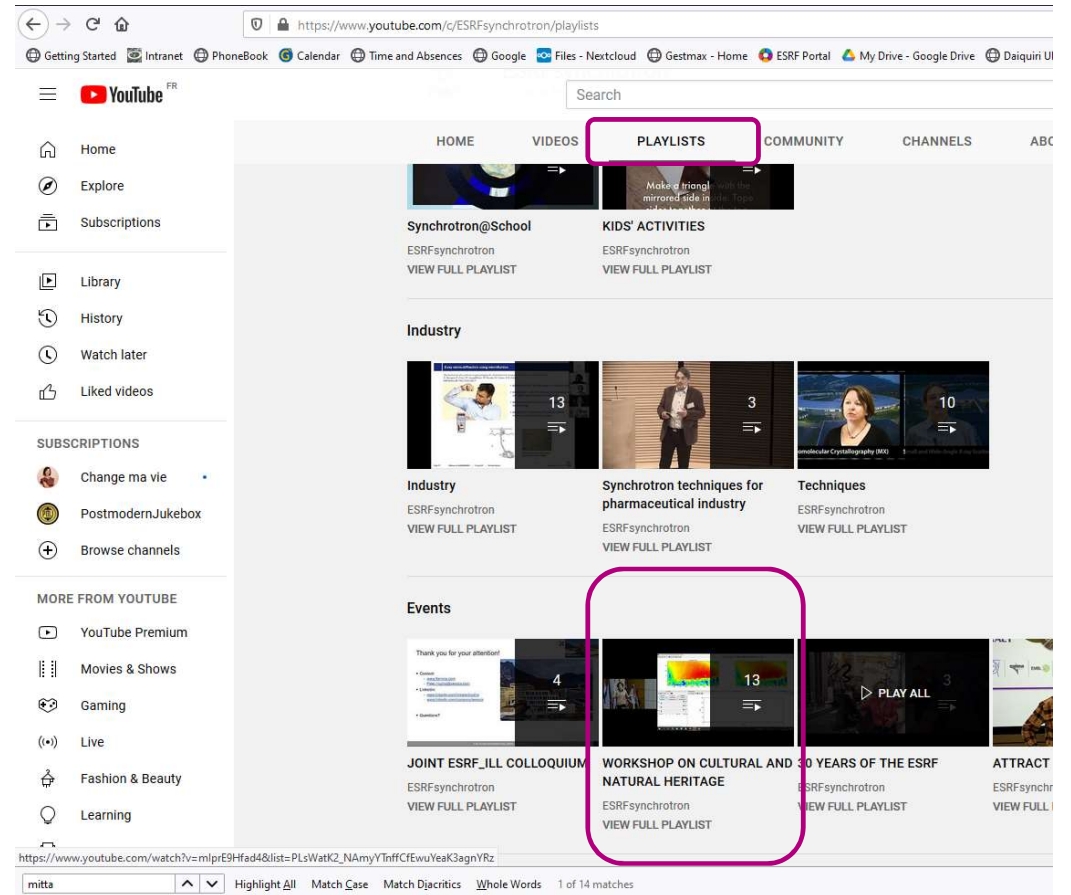
WANT TO KNOW MORE?



Cultural and Natural Heritage ESRF-EBS workshop

ESRF – Grenoble - France
22-24 January 2020

ESRF YouTube channel
Playlists
Workshop on cultural and natural heritage



https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsWatK2_NAmyA0n03OMJMAKobVlvow2D

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION
Thanks to users and colleagues
involved in this research!

PIONEERING SYNCHROTRON SCIENCE



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Do not hesitate to contact me: cotte@esrf.fr