

Following a 2011 survey of research figures, AFNOR launched **the Commission for standardisation AFNOR X580 "Management of research activities"** to which *ArkéoTopia®*, an alternative approach to archaeology came forward to represent the interests of archaeology and social sciences.



## **The context - Why set up this commission?**

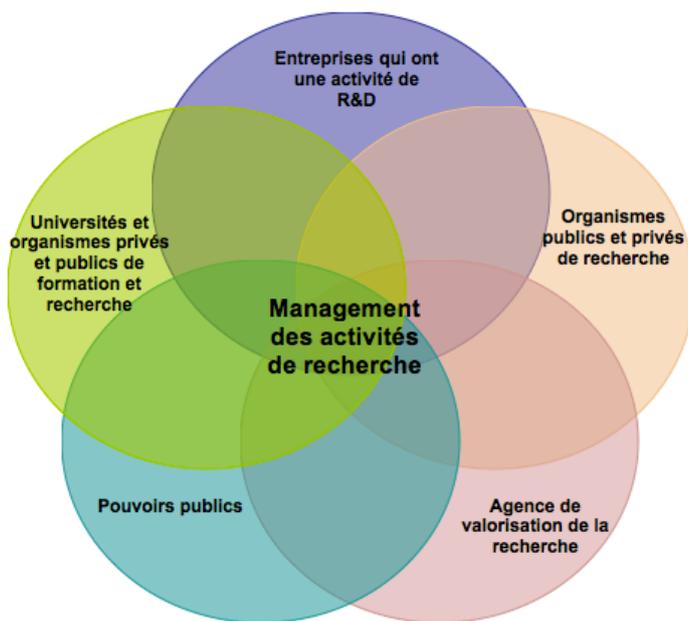
Research has a major role to play in nations' competitiveness and economic performance now more than ever before through the creation of value-added and jobs which it generates by innovation. The world of research has seen evolutions which have brought a dynamic of change to parties involved in it: an evolution of the career of researcher, growth of projects of excellence and multidisciplinary projects, etc.

These elements lead organisations to try to structure themselves to **improve different actions implemented and to adapt to change, but also to better communicate and reinforce collaborations with various public and private organisations.**

**Standard reference bases** have provided the first tools which now need to be adapted to these evolutions:

- ▶ FD X50-550:2001 - general principles and recommendations
- ▶ FD X50-551:2003 - recommendations for the organisation and realisation of a research activity in project mode, notably within a network
- ▶ GA X50-552:2004 - application guide for ISO 9001 in research organisations

To manage these evolutions, research players surveyed placed themselves in favour of revising the standard research bases in order to continue this process of helping the structure and promotion of [research activity](#) management through standardisation.



**This would involve creating a reference document of recommended standards** which could be taken to a European level like the CEN Workshop Agreement having the objective of:

- ▶ benefitting mutually from and optimising research activities to improve their organisation and add value to their results
- ▶ capitalising on the know-how and knowledge of research figures and making them more durable
- ▶ defining and promoting the different facets of careers in research.

To attain this objective, the commission was divided into 6 sub-groups working across disciplines whose areas of interest are:

- GT1 - Social responsibility
- GT2 - Piloting research activities
- GT3 - Resource management
- GT4 - Conduct and carrying out research activities
- GT5 - Use and validation of results
- GT6 - Evaluation

## **ArkéoTopia and the working group on social responsibility**

ArkéoTopia will direct the commission's working group on social responsibility. Since the subject links ethics and the researcher's obligation to society, we will work on the two following general themes:

- ▶ **Scientific ethics** on subjects linked to
  - respecting contractual engagements (the difference between employee

and freelance)

- data integrity
- robustness of measures
- traceability of different research stages
- validity of results

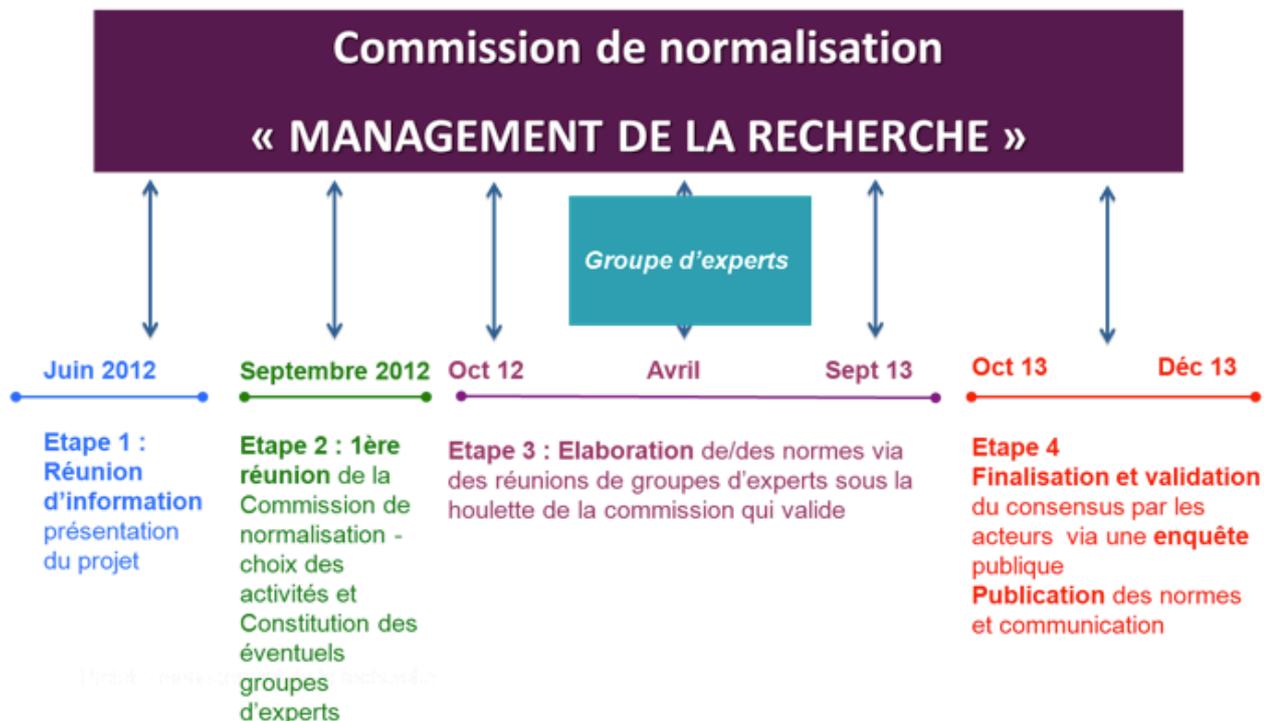
► **Social ethics** of subjects linked to

- respecting national policies initially on a French level (animal experiments / GMOs / respect of the historical structure of nations, etc.)
- transparency of work depending on obligations (diffusion of results, access to raw data, etc.)
- the relationship between researchers and the wider public (to allow the ordinary citizen to contribute to research, to facilitate understanding of the consequences of research, etc.)
- the relationship between professional researchers and voluntary researchers (recognising everyone's work, defining everyone's constraints and advantages, etc.)

By making links with its Arkéthique project about ethics in archaeology, ArkéoTopia plans to contribute to bringing forward the relationships within the scientific community between professional researchers, voluntary researchers, research figures, politicians and ordinary people.

In this respect, , **we call on researchers in archaeology, history, ethnology, philology, etc. to get together to take this opportunity to be proactive** rather than to be subjected to the decisions of deliberations from which they have been excluded. To participate in this working group, [contact Jean-Olivier Gransard-Desmond](#). For the other groups, [contact Isabelle Lambert](#).

## Schedule



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### To find out more...

▶ about AFNOR's call for contributions, see [« Chercheurs, participez à l'élaboration d'un guide sur le management appliqué au domaine de la recherche »](#) (Researchers, participate in the development of a guide for applied management in the field of research) (in French) and [download the leaflet calling for contributions](#) (in French).

▶ about interest in a quality approach to research and the frames of reference on a French and European level, see the [page Qualité-Recherche de l'Université de Technologie de Compiègne](#) (in French), in particular the section *référentiels utiles* (useful references).

▶ about the Arkéthique project, see the [statement entitled Ethics and archaeology made at the European Association of Archaeologists in 2011](#)