

Living Danube Limes

Valorising cultural heritage and fostering sustainable tourism by LIVING the common heritage on the DANUBE LIMES as basis for a Cultural Route

E-Newsletter

Issue #3, January 2022



Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

Living Danube Limes



PRESENTATION OF NEW PROJECT PARTNERS

Moldavia

Ungheni is a region in the central-western part of the Republic of Moldova, located in the immediate vicinity of the European Union. The local hub of the region is Ungheni city. It is located at a distance of 105 km north west of the capital of the Republic of Moldova and extends on a length of 9 km on the left bank of the Prut River.

Ungheni is an important economic center, with a well-developed road network, one of the largest railway junctions in the Republic of Moldova and a river port. According to the data of the last census (2016), it is the third largest city in the country.

Ungheni City Hall is a legal entity, and according to the law has a patrimony at its disposal and benefits of financial autonomy. The public administration of the city is based on principles of local autonomy, decentralization of public services.

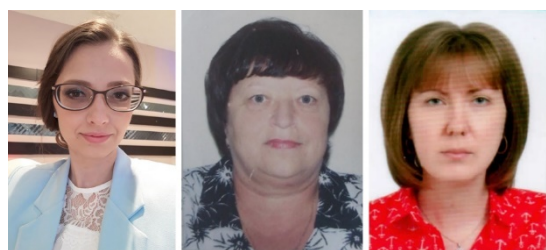
The economic base of the City Hall is the city patrimony that is a source of revenues and of satisfaction of population social-economic needs.

The city patrimony is a part of the public patrimony and is made up of personal and real estate managed by the city public authorities, by the enterprises, state institutions and organizations from the territory, that directly satisfy the population needs.

Ungheni is the host of the most important and branded products of the country, which also promotes national culture and traditions, such as: "Covoare-Ungheni" (production of carpets), "Ceramica-Ungheni" (production of ceramic articles) and "Ungheni – Vin" (wine and brandy production).

Due to its geographical position the city is called „the Western Gate of the Republic of Moldova to Europe”, having an important touristic potential and where the past connects with the presence and makes paths to future.

The tourist patrimony of Ungheni could constitute a chance for the region’s social and economic development within the project by a strong commitment of all stakeholders involved, focusing on the capitalization of natural landscapes, history and culture. Therefore, the project will provide a unique opportunity to integrate the knowledge and findings available in the partner countries and domains for developing efficient and rational procedure for introduction, promoting and preservation of tourism and historic heritage.



Team of Ungheni: Left to right: I. Olearciuc (Communication Manager), T. Pavliuc (Financial Manager), V. Darie (Coordinator)

STATUS QUO OF THE WORK IN LIVING DANUBE LIMES

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WPM

3rd Project Partner Meeting on 6 September 2021

On 6 September 2021, the Living Danube Limes partners virtually came together for the 3rd Project Partner Meeting. Initially, it was planned to meet in person one day in advance to the physical conference hosted by and on the premises of the Faculty of Technical Sciences of the University of Novi Sad, but due to the once again worsening situation of the Covid-19 pandemic both events had to be transformed to online activities.

Since the combined event of the internal meeting and the public conference also provided a very good overview of the current state-of-the-art of the project, its first results and dissemination efforts, representatives of the DTP Joint Secretariat were invited to join the partnership and to use this opportunity for carrying out their obligatory First-Year-Visit (within this framework).

In the morning during the first session of the meeting all Work Package (WP) leads of a thematic or investment WP presented the state of progress as well as the upcoming tasks and activities in their respective WP. Therefore, the whole partnership received a concise overview of all the current efforts and endeavours in Living Danube Limes, ranging from the last archaeological sites to be gathered (WP T1) to the comprehensive communication strategy along the Danube Limes (WP T2), including the first reflections on eco-friendly and sustainable tourism with regards to the Roman Danube Limes (WP T3) as well as the current state of the ship-building process of the replica Lusoria (WP I1).

After a short break all partner countries along the Danube introduced and presented their national pilot sites as well as the first activities carried out on-site and the future developments planned there. Following the national overview an update was given on the current outreach of the project which reflected the great communication efforts and dissemination success in Living Danube Limes so far. The very last session of the day was dedicated to the project management which smoothly transitioned to the subsequent meeting of the Steering Committee, the decision-making body of the project. In this framework all delicate management-related issues affecting the Living Danube Limes project and partnership were openly discussed, possible solutions and strategies consulted upon and decisions on how to tackle and solve existing issues agreed on under the direct consultation of the representatives of the Joint Secretariat present during the meeting.

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WP T1

Status quo of the Archaeological Database

Mapping of the cultural traces of the Roman Empire on the banks of the Danube is a challenge that every research team wishes to encounter, analyze, and tackle. We have tackled this task knowing that it is not a new subject; on the contrary, several scientific contributions on this very topic have been created in the past. Given this fact, for us as architects, a fundamental topic was to standardize the language with our archaeological colleagues; the ensuing debates were long but fulfilling for both sides. Also, the creation of a cataloguing system for the best possible future use was essential. Producing a categorization based on the creation or reconstruction of objects that have been built over several centuries, which added additional layers for their possible presentation variants in the future, also proved to be a challenging.



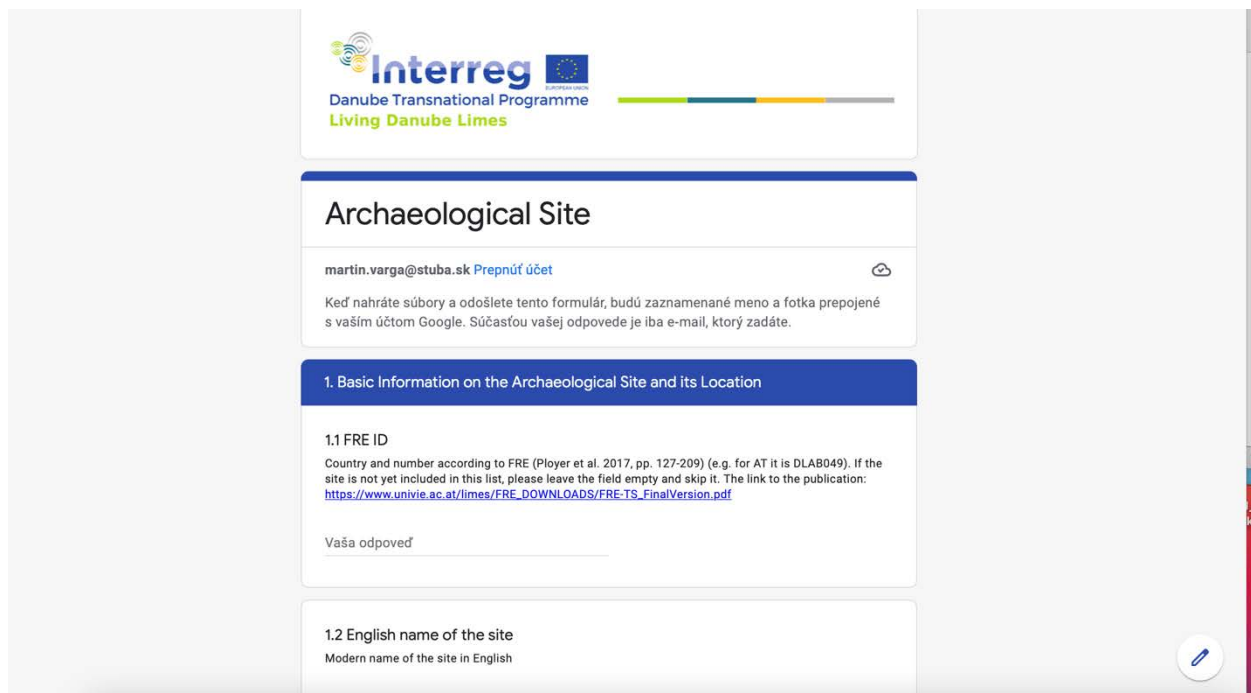
World Heritage Sites -Kelemantia – Iža – Slovakia (Photo by Martin Varga)

We knew that the number of sites were predefined, however considerations were to be given to a possible future expansion of the database. The original catalog system has been constantly expanding, as other specific categories were gradually added to the basic objects in the military camps. Additional categories include civil objects (houses, villages) located near military fortifications, and constructed roads surrounded by cemeteries that joined the objects. Technical monuments, such as little-preserved aqueducts and canalization, are often hidden in the underground of established “archaeological” sites. With a historically strong military-movement heritage, we can count on marching camps or, given

the Roman propensity to leave written records, on carved texts, such as those preserved in Trenčín (Slovak Republic) in the hill cliff.

In the course of our work we engaged in an internal conflict about which language to choose to collect all the information - Latin was winning for a while, but English finally prevailed mercilessly crushing all opposition with overwhelming force and once again grinding Latin into the dust of time.

However, our first task was to select an appropriate platform for data collection. Seeking a user-friendly platform which had to be accessible to all project partners the freely available google platform <https://docs.google.com/> proved to be the most suitable. Using this platform a questionnaire was established in order to obtain the necessary information from our partner organizations.



The screenshot shows a Google Docs form titled "Archaeological Site". At the top, there is a header with the Interreg logo and the text "Danube Transnational Programme Living Danube Limes". Below the header, the form is divided into sections. The first section is titled "1. Basic Information on the Archaeological Site and its Location". Under this section, there are two sub-sections: "1.1 FRE ID" and "1.2 English name of the site". The "1.1 FRE ID" section contains a text input field and a link to a publication. The "1.2 English name of the site" section contains a text input field. The form is displayed on a mobile device, as indicated by the navigation bar at the bottom.

Online document archaeological (Photo by Martin Varga)

This information forms proved to be an indispensable foundation for the emerging web and mobile application. Over the course of several months, this database was filled its content reaching 352 objects. It is an impressive figure, which only confirms the necessity of creating this extensive Danube database of Roman cultural heritage. After a simple import, all information is and will continue to be easily editable in the Microsoft Excel environment. We would like to thank our partners for their time and effort; we appreciate it very much and believe that the collected data will form a solid basis for further milestones of the project.

App Development Progress

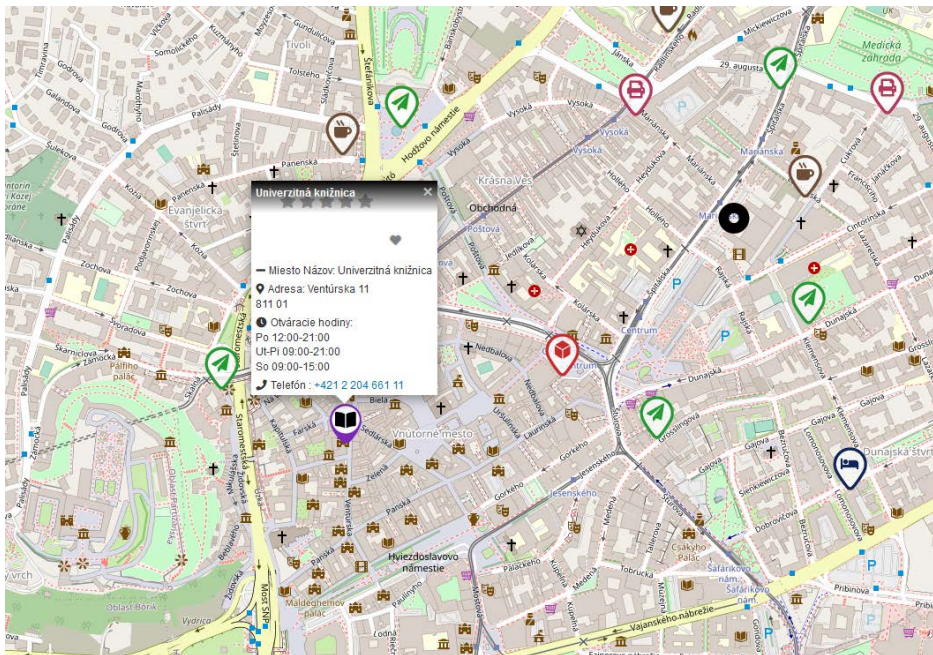
Introduction

The aim of the Living Danube Limes App is to present archaeological sites of Roman fortifications and settlements in the Danube region. Its goal is to increase the tourist attractiveness of these significant and fascinating places and to reinforce public cultural and historical knowledge about Roman civilisation in Danube region. To deliver functional and captivating application to its users – current and future tourists, but also inhabitants of Living Danube Limes region. Several steps are required for its preparation:

Definition of the outlines and basic features of the application after meeting with PPs

In the beginning of 2021, an online meeting of all PPs was organised to discuss the ideas and concept for the app. After the successful conclusion of the meeting the basic proposal of the application outline and its features were designed. The app should present all collected Roman Limes archaeological sites of 10 partnered countries, publish the remnants and found artefacts together with their recurrent events and expositions using texts, images and videos. 8 pilot sites

should be presented also via VR reconstructions. The sites will be presented as icons on an interactive map, which will be the basic motive of its user interface. The interactive map will have the ability to Zoom and Pan. The archaeological sites as icons will be visualized in layers according to Roman Limes historical periods. Users will be able to change historical periods to show the Roman Limes development and changes by appearing and disappearing of the icons according to the chosen period. By touching the icon of the site, the basic info together with the image will be displayed together with available photographs, videos, objects, or VR reconstructions. The interactive map will be designed to use GPS localisation in order to show the current location of the user.



Example of map interface - Archimapa – locations relevant for architecture students (Source: <https://archimapa.spfastu.sk>)

The primary language for the app will be English. Only selected information (e.g. info of archaeological site, historic information) will also be available in local national language. The videos and interactive content as VR reconstructions will be produced primarily in English.

As presented data will be in various formats, to reinforce and to sustain the current and future communication between the partners, the idea of common content management system was established. This content management system should be connected with the app to ensure continuous updating and users notification.

The app will be compatible with Android and iOS smartphones, and downloadable through the app stores of those platforms.

The app will be available on the project related website with links to the app stores and an interactive map, showing with basic info to each archaeological site.

Communication with IT professionals to specify the technical issues, range and of the works, its price and suitable software tools.

The established concepts and aims of the app and content management system were communicated with various IT professionals and experts. Consequently, the technical issues as size limitation by the app stores, presenting various data within app, hosting solutions, database and content management system were consulted and specified. Several solutions to these problems were discussed. To solve the issue of app size limitation by the app stores, the possible to build Progressive Web App, which stores and uses online data, thus the streamed the data to the mobile device, while not exhausting all the device's resources. To solve the issue of presenting various data as 3D, map data, images and other, the Map Box SDK is seen as a viable option for use within the Unity Engine. For a database, the SQL or PostgreSQL could be used with content management system based on Drupal or Laravel Framework. To work with data effectively it is required to sort precisely in advance, thus various database structures were designed and communicated with experts. The

outcome of this communication was the preparation of a Google Form, which is used in advance to collect and sort data before the agreement with application developer is signed.



Example of using MapBox Unity SDK (Source: <http://barankahyaoglu.com>)

Preparation of the form and data collecting

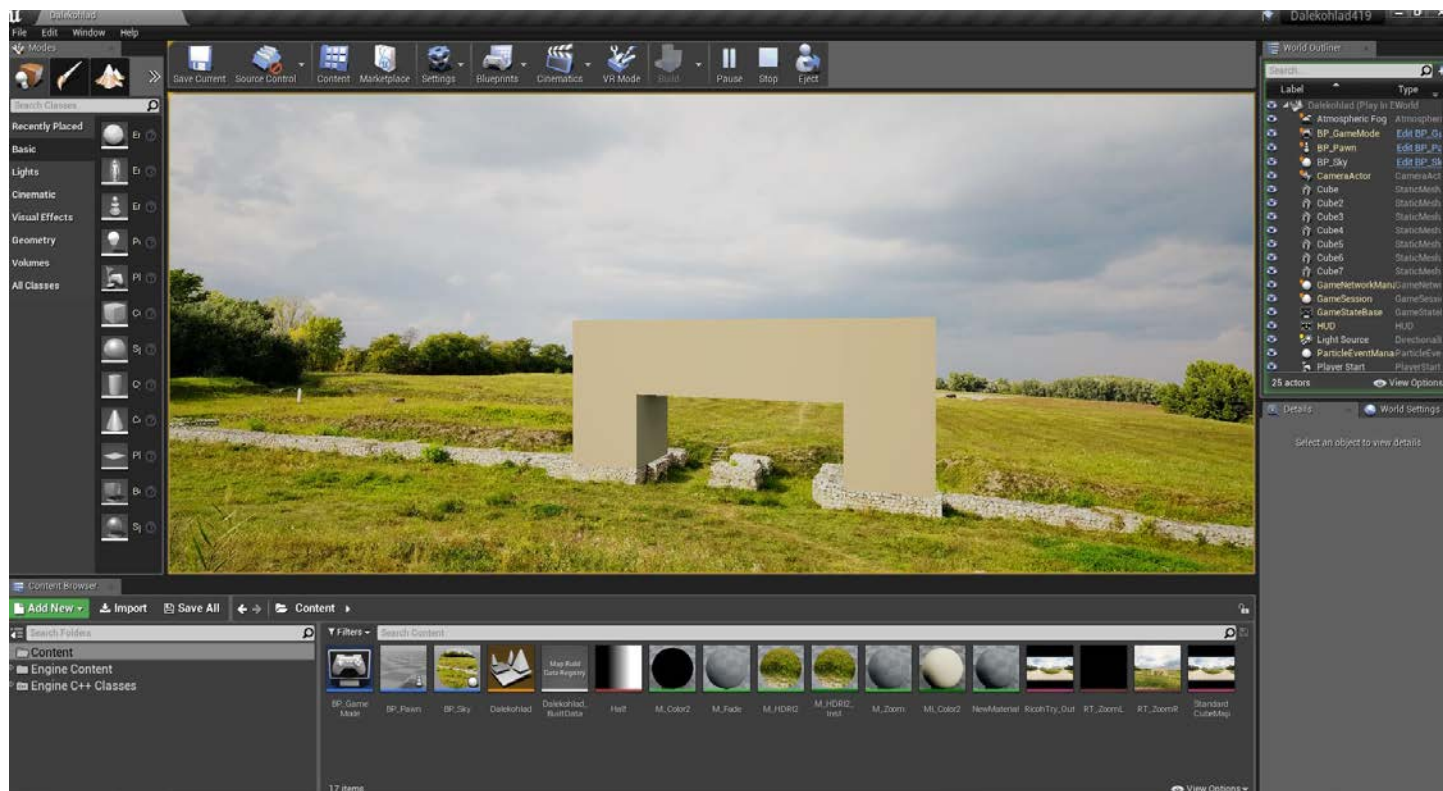
In order to collect and sort data for further app development the Google Form of Archaeological Site was designed. This form collects data from all partners by various questions and specifies the image and range of the data, which the application and its database will use. While using this mode of data collection from the large project consortium, data for 352 sites of the entire 936 sites could be obtained. This gives us a better picture of required resources to process and use these data. Nevertheless, the Google Form has its limitations with data management as it was unable to re-upload or add new images to the database. This issue needs to be solved by adding the images manually by the administrator of the form. Collected and structured data will be copied to the new content management system and used further in the application.

Collecting data for VR reconstruction – communication with experts in the field of VR presentations

The pilot site of each country will be reconstructed in VR, thus it needs more detailed visual data to manually reconstruct these sites. This issue was communicated with LBI Arch Pro and it was decided that STUBA will collect data of three pilot sites – Croatia, Austria and Germany. LBI Arch Pro will collect data of remaining pilot sites. After data gathering, the next meeting will be organised to discuss the next steps and to agree on similar visual and graphical style of the VR reconstructions and app compatibility issues. Subsequently, the 3D modelling of the sites' objects is planned.

As the pandemic situation did not allow visits of these sites to collect detailed visual data, another Google Form for data gathering was designed and sent to partnered countries, for which the responses are still awaited.

In the meantime, the try-outs of technical workflow for creation of VR reconstructions in Unreal Engine were examined with data from Iža.



Try-outs of technical workflow of importing 3D models to photographically captured environment of Iža (Source: Ing. arch. MArch. Roman Hajtmanek)

Public procurement of the application developer and signing contract

Public procurement appeared to be the hardest task of the whole process as its administrative and financial rules disabled the contracting of a professional application developer company earlier this year. Nevertheless, after overcoming administrative issues and further technical specification of the app, it is planned that till end of the year, the public procurement will be finished, and application developer will be contracted. These problems also delayed the next steps of the process as they are very dependent on the close cooperation with the contracted IT professionals.

Preparation of graphical design for the app

Elegant graphical design will be creating accessible and user-friendly interface with simple control by zooming and panning the map with icons of archaeological sites.

From passed consultations with IT experts, it is possible that the interactive map may be also in 3D, which opens new possibilities for graphical design. Nevertheless, the design of the app is still in process and the subject of discussion, as it depends on further communication with application developer, their requirements and technical limitations.

Development of content management system

The required data is still being gathered through Google Forms, but it is planned, that 4 weeks after the contracting of the app developer, the content management will be running and further discussed with partners. Subsequently, the data from Google Forms will be integrated into the new system. Content management system will make updating of the app database easier. The system will have three types of accounts for editing of the app content: accounts for associated partners – able to edit only their content, accounts for leading and primary partners of the project – able to edit their and their associated partners' content, few administrative accounts to administrate the database and its entire content.

Development of the one-paged website

After development of the content management system, in the beginning of 2022 the one-paged website will be designed. This website will include basic info about the project, interactive map with sites and their basic info and introduction for links to the application stores. It is planned that this site will be launched by the end of March 2022.

Development of the app prototype and final version

The prototype of the app should be ready by the end of March including connection with content management system and try-outs of the VR reconstructions. The debugging and tuning of this prototype will lead to final version of the app uploaded to the application stores by the end of May. The application authorisation on application stores also requires time, thus it is planned that it will be ready by the end of June 2022.

National Myths, Traditions and Stories Tracing back to Roman Origins

Travel with us along the Danube river and explore some of the myths, customs and holidays that date back to the Roman era which have survived until this day.

Austria, the introduction of Gravestones and ominous building sacrifices, by Maria Erker (PLUS)

Along with the Roman culture itself, the custom of setting gravestones was carried into the Celtic-Germanic area. This custom was unknown before. Depicted on the tombstones were images of the dead; name, age, origin and profession of the deceased were listed on the stones as well.

When constructing new buildings, in some of the German-speaking areas a newspaper, perhaps a deed or coins, are placed in the foundation of the new building. In the Middle Ages, there was the custom of sacrificing animals, eggs or coins during construction, or even bricking them in alive. With the Romans, building sacrifices were also common; probably the current custom dates back to Roman or even pre-Roman times. In the Salzburg Museum there is a small metal bull statuette, which was found on the banks of the Salzach River and is interpreted as a Roman building sacrifice for a bridge. Possibly, it was as a sacrifice to the river god Iuvo or to Jupiter, the father of the Gods.

Hungary & Romania, holidays dating back to the Roman Era, by Gergő Máté Kovács (BME), Zsuzsanna Emília Kiss (BME)

November 11, Day of Szt. Márton (St. Martin)

The various traditions on the day of St. Martin can be associated with a person born in Savaria (Szombathely) in Pannonia around the years 316 and 317 CE. St. Martin is known to have founded the first European monastic monastery in Ligugé 361 CE and for being elected as Bishop of Tours. Related to his story of election as Bishop of Tours in 371 CE geese remain a popular dish in November.

December 25, Christmas

The most obvious example of the traditions with a long and continuous origin is Christmas as one of the most important feasts of Christianity. However, its date is derived from the ancient winter solstice. In ancient Roman beliefs – especially in the Mithras cult – this was the day of the rebirth of the Sun, the ‘Dies natalis solis invicti’.

January 11, Juturnalia

Romans celebrated on that day Juturna the goddess of water sources and wife of the god Janus, as described by the Romanian ethnologist and folklorist A.M. Marinescu ¹. In the Romanian Christian Orthodox calendar, January 6 is dedicated to the celebration of Bobotează. Water, rivers, lakes, seas and all water sources become holy during a special religious service. The holy water is spread on houses, objects and people for protection.

January 22, Day of Vince

The name of Vince (Vincent) originates from the phrase “victorious” in Latin. Therefore, this day, which is related to St. Vincent, had the meaning of defeating the dark forces of winter and bringing spring. St. Vince has long been the patron saint of winegrowers in Hungary. On this day, viticulture farmers cut grape wands and bud them in a warm room. If they sprouted nicely, a good wine yield is predicted from it.

February 10, the celebration of the god Faun

Faun is one of the most ancient gods of Italy, the spirit of mountains, hills and fields, the protector of cattle, fields and agriculture. Romans used to celebrate Faun on February 13. 2 The Romanian Christian Orthodox calendar celebrates on February 10 the day of Saint Haralambie. Traditionally, peasants bring products from their crops (wheat, corn, flour, etc.) to church for this occasion and a special religious service is held in order to bless the fields, the crops and their animals for protection and abundance.

March 1, Mărțișorul

On March 1 in Romania, men offer to women and girls mărțișoare, small objects decorated with a red and white string. That same day the Romans used to celebrate the god Marte / Mars, who was the god of war but also the god of nature, spring and fields. 3 For the Romans, it was also the day of Matronalia, a celebration of all Roman mothers called also Calendae Foeminarium.4 God Marte's dual character might be the reason of combining a red and white string. Wearing the small objects called mărțișoare would bring luck in the upcoming year. The tradition of Mărțișor could have even more ancient roots in local Thracian mythologies.

Croatia, Lukanika sausages, a popular food over centuries, by Ivana Ožanić Roguljić, Mislav Fileš (IAHR)

Similar to many other countries with this tradition, most notably Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece, a recipe for sausage making dating to Roman times can be found in the present-day region of Srijem. We know of this recipe from the Roman author Apicius, from his compilation of recipes from the 1st century CE. Though his recipe is quite simple, Lukanika today is somewhat different for it uses slightly fermented pork meat, and different spices that are rarely used in sausages like pine nuts, laurel, rue, and savoury.

Serbia, the ancient burial rite of leaving money with the deceased, by Tijana Mrđić Nemanja Mrđić (IAB), Milena Krklješ, Olivera Marković, Marina Carević Tomić (FTN)

In many Roman graves, a coin was found as part of the grave inventory. This coin was to be paid to the ferryman to cross the river Styx to the underworld. Even today, most families, even with strong Christian tradition, leave some money, both coins and paper money, in the pockets of the deceased, although it has nothing to do with Christianity as there is no requested fee for the voyage to heaven. When interviewed, almost none of the people could rationally explain this custom and they do not know its origin. The only answer was commonly that it is a custom and that it is "for expenses". Priests do not oppose this tradition and do not try to alter its pagan origins or persuade people to refrain from it.

Romania, the continuous linguistic heritage of Rome, Ana-Maria Machedon (UAUIM)

The name of Romania derives from the Latin word romanus with the meaning of Roman or of Rome.5

The Romanian Language

Romanian is the result of the evolution of the Latin language spoken in the Roman province of Dacia. It inherited the phonetics, a large part of the vocabulary and the grammar of the Latin language.6 The Romanian linguist and philologist Alexandru Rosetti gave a genealogical definition of the Romanian language: "The Romanian Language is the Latin language continuously spoken in the eastern part of the Roman Empire, in the Danube Roman Provinces (Dacia, South Pannonia, Dardania, Moesia Superior and Inferior) from the moment of its entrance in those provinces till nowadays".7

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2 Marinescu 2008, 75

3 Marinescu 2008, 92-97

4 Marinescu 2008, 101

5 Academia Română 1998

6 Academia Republicii Socialiste România 1966, 179

7 1968, 75: "Limba română este limba latină vorbită în mod neîntrerupt în partea orientală a Imperiului Roman, cuprinzând provinciile dunărene romanizate (Dacia, Pannonia de sud, Dardania, Moesia Superioară și Inferioară) din momentul pătrunderii limbii latine în aceste provincii și până în zilele noastre." (translated A-M Machedon)

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Archaeological Summer School Viminacium

Due to the epidemiological situation, the previously planned Archaeological Summer School had to be carried out in hybrid form. The first part was held virtually, as a series of online lectures between 14-18 June 2021. The second, practical part of the Archaeological Summer School was organized at Viminacium Research and Visitors Center between 2-5 September 2021. Target groups for this international educational event were undergraduate students whose main interests lay on cultural heritage, Roman archaeology, or art history. The event was organized by the Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade. First part of the programme, Virtual Summer School, was conducted over five days within a workweek, as a series of lectures on the Zoom online platform. The lectures were mainly grouped into thematic units, with several additional presentations (i.e. new findings at the Viminacium, experimental archaeology etc.). This conference gathered 20 lecturers from 6 different countries (Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and United Kingdom). Various topics were covered with these presentations: the use of new technologies in archaeology, Roman limes, protection, conservation, interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage, as well as educational purpose of archaeology. A virtual tour of Viminacium Archaeological Park and Research Center (Domus Scientiarum) was also arranged for the participants during the programme.

The virtual school was attended by 30 participants (mostly students and young researchers) from 12 countries (Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Austria, Germany, Turkey and South Korea). At the end of the Summer School participants were given two tasks as homework. The first one was to write a final report, including personal impressions of the School and lectures. The second one was to create an interpretation of several photos of the geophysically surveyed area, written in their own words. They were asked to complete these tasks in order to meet the conditions for the practical part of the School in September.

The second, practical part of the Archaeological Summer School was organized at Viminacium Archaeological Park by the Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade and Budapest University of Technology and Economics. All participants of the first segment were invited to the practical part of the Viminacium Summer School. Due to the COVID-19 situation, private and business obligations of some of the participants, as well as some technical issues, the number of attendees was significantly reduced. The second part of the school was attended by 7 participants from 2 countries (Serbia and Hungary), among whom there were 5 students. All of the participants were accommodated in Limes Park at Viminacium.

The programme was conducted over four days. The first two days encompassed activities in the area of Viminacium Archaeological Park and Research and visitors center. During this time, attendees were acquainted with several current ongoing situations in Serbian archaeology, on the example of Viminacium:

- Presentation and touristic exploitation of Cultural Heritage with the use of new technologies
- Facing scientific challenges combined with touristic requirements in modern Serbia - the Viminacium Scientific Research and visitors center "Domus Scientiarum"
- Geophysical surveys – presentations on the field workshop and data processing workshop

The last two days of the school were designated for excursions to the Iron Gates Gorge and to Ram/Lederata, visiting the most important sites on this part of Serbian limes.

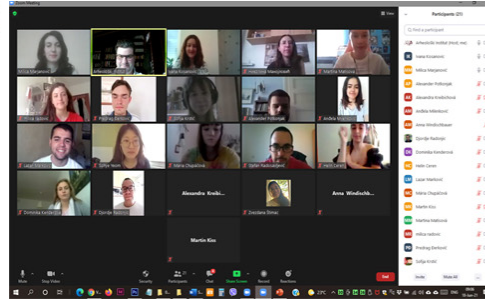
During the last day participants completed a short questionnaire aiming to evaluate the summer school. All of them responded positively, pointing out that what they liked the most was the tour around the Viminacium Scientific Research and visitor's center, Archaeological Park and Mammoth Park, but also the Iron Gates excursion.



LIVING DANUBE LIMES PROJECT

*How to make invisible - visible
Archeological Methodology and Presentation
in the Digital era*

Viminacium Summer school 14-18 June 2021



Photos by Institute of Archaeology Belgrade

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WP T2

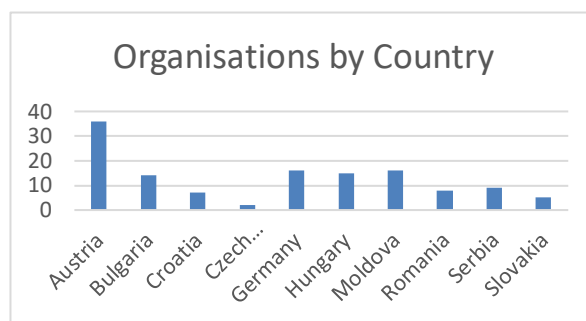
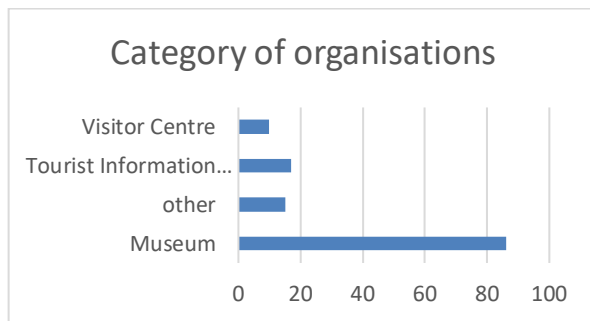
Guidelines for Successful Implementation of Strong and Interconnected Museum Cluster

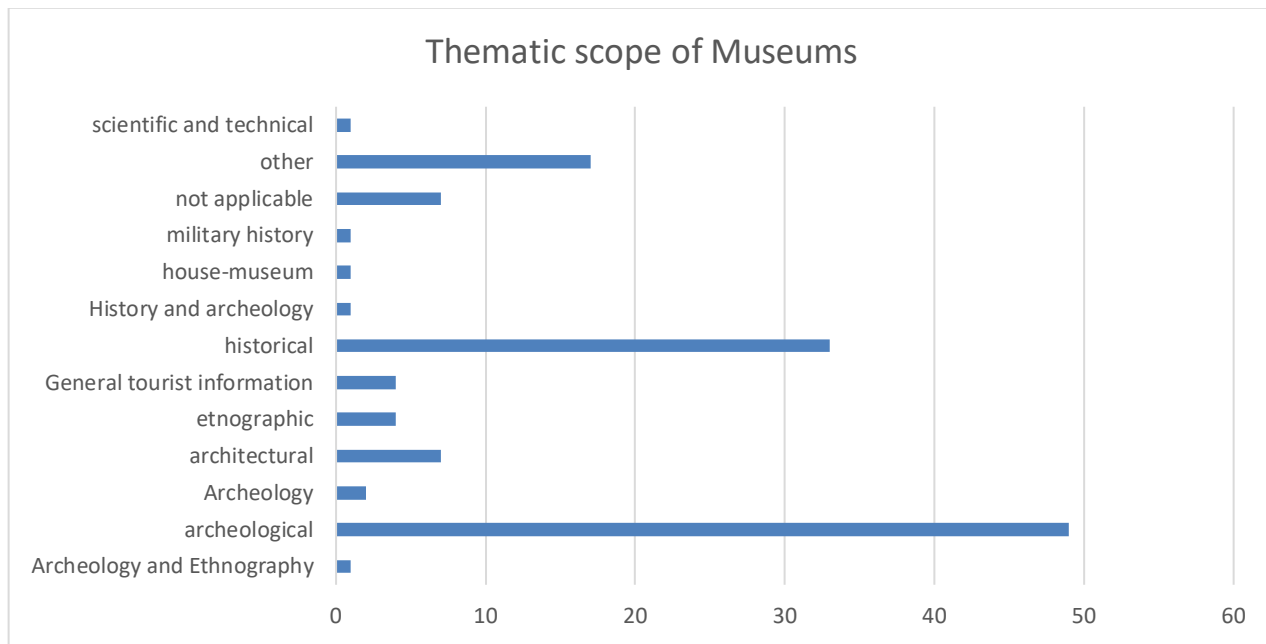
Based on the outcomes of the workshop organized in Carnuntum, two milestones have been reached under Deliverable D.T2.1.1 related to the identification of the Danube limes Museums clusters (DLMC):

- A list of all possible active potential core members in the future Danube Limes museum cluster is ready thanks to desk research accomplished by all project partners (PPs).
- The guidelines for successful implementation of strong and interconnected museum cluster are ready and available online. All museums and sites interested in the idea would find insights to follow the process. For further details about the aforementioned guidelines, please check the project website library.

Through the mapping of museums, tourist centers, visitor centers related to the Roman limes and situated along the Danube, 128 organizations were identified between the ten partner countries (Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Moldova).

Below is a description of the potential core members of the DLMC:





Data gathered from all Living Danube Living project partners in the course of the deliverable D.T.2.1.1 (by NTC "Bulgarian Guide") and adapted for this Newsletter

Through the conducted survey, participants from different sites in all LDL partner countries shared their concerns about the lack of information on the goals and benefits of the museum cluster. The guidelines addressed these concerns by outlining the different key factors and topics for the implementation of a strong and interconnected DLMC and providing all potential members and partners a clear and mutual understanding and agreement on the utility and significance of such collaboration.

The vision, mission, and main goal of the DLMC were made clear: The DLMC will exist to ensure the visibility of the common Roman heritage through its unique value. It will create synergies between all museums and tourist centers located along the Danube, to project and promote its image and value toward the local and international communities and to ultimately increase and develop the socio and economic potential of the region. This will be achieved via the connection of the identified cultural heritage sites, mainly the pilot sites, under one common brand and one common cultural route and via the involvement of all concerned stakeholders and local communities.

Strategy Paper for the Establishment of a Strong and Interconnected Danube Limes Museum Cluster

Following these guidelines, in-depth research on the consolidation tools of the Danube limes Museums clusters (DLMC) is being carried out under the Deliverable D.T2.1.2. Through this research, a strategy on how to set up the DLMC in its various stages is being developed. As the DLMC will be operating under two different sectorial industries (the tourism industry and the cultural and creative industry) and in eight different countries, its needs in term of synergies, capitals, resources, or infrastructure might be diversified or uneven. The consolidation tools will include a proposal of all possible activities related to staff mobility and training, promotion and marketing, innovation and research, cross sectoral corporation.

Therefore, a thorough analysis, on a macro and micro level on the forces that will make the DLMC innovative and dynamic, is required. It is important to identify the support members - supplying the core members with the needed resources for their final outcomes (SMEs or startups specialized in exhibition materials and design, printing and editing, renovation tools, renovation expertise, advertisement and events, tour guides, artefacts and crafts, music and theatre performances, innovation and technology, etc.), the soft support infrastructure partners which are the public and private stakeholders who will be facilitating the administration, implementation, and performance of the work of the core and support members (municipalities, representative authorities, NGOs, schools, universities) and the hard support infrastructure partners which are the private and public stakeholders who provide the mandatory infrastructure facilities such as roads and ports installation and maintenance, creation of bike paths, internet and mobile linkage, water treatment.

A top-down approach for building the cluster was applied and followed, namely based on the analysis for identification of actors (museums, tourist, and information centres) that are attracting wealth into the local economy and their prioritization to be the core cluster members and to attract more visitors.

This strategy will present the establishment of the DLMC in its various stages:

- Setting up the DLMC: MoU agreements between PoCs to set up the DLMC legal form, structure, and management system during the LDL project. All virtual content and tools (the LDL App and QR codes) will also be available for use and upgrade by members and partners during the LDL project.
- DLMC Charter: Call for membership to join the Cluster. First target group will be the eight museums connected to the pilot sites
- Institutionalization of the DLMC: Preparing for the institutionalization of the DLMC as a long-term objective whereby the outcomes of the DLMC would be infused in the socio and economic development of the Danube region and beyond it.

Communication Strategy Paper

A communication paper is also being developed under the Deliverable D.T2.1.2 which will outline the adequate communication standards for the museum cluster and foster a common Roman brand for the Danube countries. During the first international conference, held in September 2021, a presentation on the brand positioning of a Danube Limes Museum Cluster was given by Assoc. Prof. Dr Stefan Serezliev, external expert to NTC BG GUIDE. A brand for the DLMC will be first set and will be based on its tangible and intangible elements; examples of brand tangible elements could be brand structure (it might be via different modules under different concepts i.e. business, tourism, tangible cultural heritage, brand name (logo and symbol), visual identity. Brand intangible elements (values) are brand loyalty, brand identity, brand image. To adopt, integrate and share the brand among all DLMC members, the communication strategy will first define the ways of brand positioning and their practical application in building and communicating a museum cultural brand for the DLMC. It will also outline the mechanisms and standard to optimize a successful corporation within the DLMC for a joint presentation and promotion of the Roman Danube Limes.

Connecting the Danube Countries through Shared Common History

To regulate the sharing and the hosting of the ship between partner countries and its role as a catalyzer for the development of the tourism in the pilot site areas, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being prepared under the Deliverable D.T2.2.1. According to the analysis of the pilot sites, it is possible for the ship to be berthed within the vicinity of the individual pilot sites, except for Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Croatia, where it can be berthed at a distance from it and based on some conditions. Desk research was done by all PPs to identify the required conditions for the registration of the ship in every partner country and the allowed possible stops along the Danube. Around 80 places were identified so far as stopping points for the cruise along the Danube shores of the partner countries and as venues for the events related to the arrival and departure of the ship.

Living History Events and Educational Videos

For the preparation of the activity A.T2.5, on the fostering of a common heritage understanding in the Danube countries through living history events and educational videos, terms of references and quality assurance check are developed aiming to support partners in the planning and setting up of all connected events and educational videos in a coherent and effective way.

Connecting Cruise Announcement

Finally the time has come! The planning for our Connecting Cruise 2022, a 2500 km long voyage with the replica of a Roman ship with our Danuvina Alacris is in full swing and so far advanced that we could officially announce it on 17 November 2021. This is also connected with the recruitment of volunteer rowers who will alternate in 10 sections covering an approximate period of 1-2 weeks. Already in a very short time we received applications from almost 200 possible participants and aroused the interest of many for our multi-month trip. The trip will start on 15 July 2022 in Ingolstadt (Bavaria/Germany) and end in Romania in early November. On the route there will be major events at the defined pilot sites, the team will make about 80 stops along the way before reaching the final destination just before the Danube discharges into the Black Sea. We wish all participants an unforgettable trip!



**2500 KM WITH A ROMAN SHIP
ALONG THE DANUBE
CONNECTING CRUISE 2022**

Registrations now open!

JOIN THE ROMAN NAVY HERE:
WWW.DONAU-UNI.AC.AT/DBU/CRUISE2022

@livingdanubelimes  
 

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WP T3

In August 2021, the Faculty of Architecture and Design of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava became the lead partner of workpackage III. Workpackage III entitled: "Transnational protection concept of cultural heritage items along the Danube including green tourism solutions" is the last part of the whole Living Danube Limes project and deals with the identification of interconnecting infrastructure solutions along, as well across the Danube. WP3 (workpackage III) is divided into five basic parts.

In the third period of the project, our team focused on the first task: "Strengthening the Danube Region with sustainable and eco-friendly tourism solutions", which itself focuses on two basic goals. The first being to enhance tourism at sites along the Danube, closely interlinked with the museum and visitor site clusters strengthened in WPT2 and focusing on places and sites which are not yet very well developed touristically. The focus will lie on sustainable tourism concepts with the core aim of securing longer stays of tourists in the region. We consider the most important tasks to create a connection between the individual tourist sites across the Danube, cycling routes, planned cultural routes and joint coordinated actions, follow-up activities over time so as to create a "sustainable tourism chain" of Roman Danube Limes sites, aimed at developing lesser-known and tourist-frequented areas, recognizing them and integrating them into the programme's common "chain". To determine the concept, it is necessary to analyze the individual pilot sites of their:

- *Historical analysis* - it can inspire and lead to the planned urbanization, or to the functional use and research tasks;
- *Analysis of the territory* and the current state, which includes e.g. transport possibilities, cycle routes, tourist paths, natural values - nature protection, possible land use - confrontation with legislation, legislative changes of the territory, legislative form of monument protection, etc.;
- *Analysis of current activities and conditions in the territory* - tourism types, composition of participants (age, topic, etc.), sports, recreation - types, conditions, connection to the pilot site, science and research - archaeology, natural science research, services - gastronomy, accommodation, transport - static and dynamic.

We decided to implement the basic collection of information utilizing a questionnaire, which we send to all partners responsible for individual pilot sites and await their feedback.

The second task is the development of green tourism solutions that support the sustainable tourism concept and boost tourism in undeveloped areas. This task needs to be carried out sensitively so that the natural heritage is not damaged by excessive tourism. In the proposal, we focus on modes of transport, the use of alternative energy sources as well as the use of traditional building materials and low-carbon technologies. For example:

- *Transportation* with a low carbon footprint - bicycles, scooters, use of electric vehicles and boats, recharging electricity in parking lots, or bike stations.
- *New building constructions* - In terms of the use of natural energy sources, it is rational to concentrate the proposed development; it is necessary to determine whether it is a seasonal or year-round use of the facilities; the capacity of the facilities must be thoroughly analyzed in terms of possible negative effects on the environment; this applies in particular to the number of visitors who stay in the area for a longer period of time, as well as a short stay; the level of tourism and utilization is crucial for the environmental burden; the form of new construction must respect the values of Roman monuments and not compete with them.

In order to obtain more data from existing pilot sites and their future options and plans in relation to green solutions, we decided to implement the basic collection of information by questionnaire, which we send to all partners responsible for individual pilot sites and we expect their feedback.

In the next period, in the beginning of the year 2022, our Faculty of Architecture and Design STU will focus on other tasks of workpackage III. This especially includes the role of physical reconstruction and visibility measures, which deal with the various possibilities of presenting the Roman heritage at individual pilot sites. These are mainly presentation methods that are non-invasive and reversible. We do not exclude physical forms of reconstruction (conservation, copies, indicative reconstructions), but we focus mainly on the possibilities of low-cost presentations and visibility of cultural and historical values of individual archaeological sites. In this task, we plan to follow up on the research of the LDL project partner - Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism.

A special part of workpackage (WP) III consists of the task: “Developing and harmonizing digital infrastructure solutions”, which is solved by our university. This is an important part of the Living Danube Limes project task (especially in terms of project presentation and implementation). It includes the creation of a mobile application and a website that will support the dissemination of the application. The task of the application is to integrate all the information obtained in the project and disseminate it among the users of the application. Creating an application is demanding on data collection, analysis and selection of components as well as technical solutions. You can get more information in a separate part of our contribution.

Workpackage III is the final part of the Living Danube Limes project and in the final year of the project several social events await us, especially the final project workshop and the long-awaited cruise of a replica Roman rowboat on the river Danube from Germany to the Black Sea delta. The serious situation in Europe and around the world caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has meant, that the LDL project cannot be fully implemented as planned. Nevertheless, we believe that the next year 2022 will be more optimistic and the project partners will meet in joint events and fulfill one of the main goals of the project, which is the integration of European nations living along the Danube.



Photo left: Lapidarium - installation - Slovakia – Komárno (Photo by Danube Region Museum in Komárno)

Photo middle: Presentation Kelemantia- Komárno Slovakia (Photo by Archaeological Institute, Slovak Academy of Science)

Photo right: Roman games gerulata Slovakia (Photo by City Museum Bratislava)

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WPI

Progress Ship Building Site

Due to the lockdown, work could not resume until 24 April 2021. With about 20 volunteers, the 20 m long keel was transported up from the timber yard. At the location of the shipyard, the keel was locked onto the pawls, which were firmly anchored to the ground. Then the keel was cut to size, damaged areas were replaced and a drainage channel was worked in. The latter is an important feature that allows the water that accumulates in the bilge to be evenly distributed. The next goal was to fix the construction space so that afterwards the planks could be brought into the final shape with pressure. To do this, the moulds, which were already built in December 2020 according to line and frame plans, were fixed to the keel at the pre-drawn points. These also have to be firmly anchored in the end. To do this, they were first stabilised laterally with laths on the concrete floor and then attached to the so-called donkey on the specially constructed scaffolding (the slipway) at the top. The lateral laths were then no longer necessary. The next step was to attach the top plank to portside and starboard. To do this, strips were fixed to the moulds for the upper and lower limits of the first batten, where the plank will later be installed. A template with sharpened sticks was fixed in between so that the tips of the sticks reached the top and bottom of the strips. This template was placed on a plank of 20 m and points were drawn from the tips of the templates onto the boards.

These points were connected in a harmonising way with the help of a connecting batten and then the board was sawn out. Thereafter, this first plank was fixed between the strips to starboard and then the second to portside. They were coated with linseed oil to prevent cracking. A total of nine planks, including the backslashes, are to be installed on each side.

„Diligence work“ followed: About 35 floor plates were produced. The floor plate, which is placed where the mast will later be attached, has to be thicker because it has to stabilise the mast. It was carved out of a solid piece of oak, which was completed at the end of October. The floor plates are determined on the hull with a flexible chain. For this purpose, three strips on the portside, as far as the floor plate will later reach, were adjusted to the streamlined mould edges. At least three points must be able to be transferred through the strips to the chain. This means that three strips had to be attached over 18 m. The three positions of the strips were marked on the chain on the port side. These three points were then transferred from the chain to the template (poplar, 3 mm). The points were connected with a small batten in a streamlined manner. This line was mirrored to portside on the poplar, the poplar was sawn out as a template and transferred to the piece of oak that is suitable for the floor plate. The oak was then sawn out, planed and smoothed. This work has to be done for each of the approx. 35 floor plates, as each floor plate has an individual shape.

Since autumn, the futtocks, which extend from the chine to the sheerstrake, has been made. This is a process that is to be repeated approx. 70 times, as there are two futtocks to be made for every floor plate.

For safety reasons, the diameters and lengths are always slightly different from the historical model, so that accidents are avoided and the boat can also withstand being lifted by a crane and transported over land, something that the Roman model did not have to endure.

The futtocks are made according to a similar scheme as the floor plates: A flexible chain extending from the keel to the gunwale (to the upper edge of the first plank) is sufficiently stabilised so that it is difficult to move. A point is marked on it at the keel as well as at the top edge of the first plank. The chain is bent to portside along the strips so that the chain lies against the strips. These places are marked on the strip (with masking tape or with a pencil). The position of the chain is always the longer curve for a frame of approx. 8 cm diameter. When planing, it tapers from the middle to the aft or from the middle to the bow. At least three marks - they equal the positions of the strips - on the chain are transferred to the template (poplar, 3 mm). The points marked on the template are streamlined with a small batten and connected with a pencil line. Afterwards the poplar is sawn out as a template and the sawn-out surface is planed smooth. The template must also be stored well after use, because it can be used for starboard. Suitable pieces of oak are selected for the futtocks. Then the template is put on, the outlines are drawn on the oak and the oak is sawn out. The new futtock is planed and adjusted. This has to be repeated about 70 times, because each frame has an individual shape. At the same time, more oars were planed.

In November we started to plank the boat further. It turned out that some planks, despite being relatively thin at 2.5 cm, had to be stretched a few centimetres at the bow and stern in order to be able to attach them to the boat. To do this, the oak wood had to be steamed, a process that takes about one and a half hours per plank and which the Romans already made use of. After steaming, the now malleable wood has to be attached within a few minutes.

The next steps are to attach the remaining planks and to make the spars. This work will last until the end of the year before the interior construction begins.

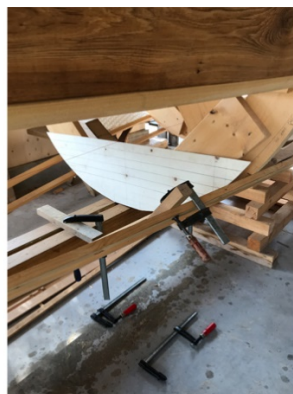


Photo left: Keel laying end of April 2021 (Photo by Mathias Orgeldinger)

Photo middle: This poplar template will later give way to an oak floor plate (Photo by Boris Dreyer)

Photo right: The future Danuvina Alacris in November 2021 (Photo by Constantin Gläser)

Workshop "Roman Craftsmanship and Roman Shipbuilding", 22 and 23 July 2021 in Germany

At the workshop on Roman craftsmanship and Roman shipbuilding, both sections proceeded separately according to major craft categories, but always maintained a connection to each other and in particular to shipbuilding.

Up to almost 40 people took part in the workshop. The participants, who introduced themselves at the beginning in terms of their motives for taking part, evaluated the workshop after participation, with a satisfaction rating of 92%.

The sequence and schedule in which participants could attend the different craft activities was chosen in a manner upon which they would build upon one another. In this way, everyone could participate in each introduction, but could also choose to stay with the active participation in the craft. Each action had an introduction. Then each participant was given the opportunity to carry out the craft activities themselves, while respecting hygienic regulations. At each stand there was an opportunity to disinfect oneself. Masks had to be worn. There were two stations on both days: one around blacksmithing and one around boatbuilding in the narrower sense. In addition, we also used a Roman kiln to bake *panis militaris* and offer them to the participants.

22 July

a) On the first day there was an introduction to blacksmithing and then tools were forged by way of example, which are also important for boat building, these include: spoon augers, hammers, caulking iron. Later on, iron nails were forged, as they are used on boats. In the afternoon, shield bosses were forged. For this purpose, a wooden mould was built in advance and the sheet metal was then slowly hollowed out there after heating.

b) The Roman kiln was heated in the morning of the first day. At the same time, spelt grain was ground in a mortar. Then the wood and charcoal were removed from the heated kiln and the *panis militaris* was baked in three portions. The first process took a few minutes, the second several minutes and the third attempt took the longest. The bread was served with olive oil and was a welcome snack during the entire afternoon.

c) Boat building was introduced in parallel with the above activities. The types of planking were demonstrated, and imitated, on prepared models: clinker and kraweel. In the case of the kraweel construction, the so-called French construction method was explained. Everything could be copied.

The basics were clarified beforehand in terms of vocabulary for orientation, the keel, the bottom range, the frame. Then basic construction methods were explained: bevelling, splicing, planing of oars, spars and planks and planing equipment. Types of fastenings in ancient times were also discussed.

With these tools, the planking methods on the model were discussed: the kraweel construction method with planks on a joint, adjusting the joint by planing an angle and caulking with tow (hemp) were explained and imitated. Furthermore,

the specific construction method of the kraweel planking on the Danuvina Alacris was explained: the French planking: With this method, only every second plank is attached because the wood material is still wet. This allows both the planks on the bond and the planks that have not yet been fitted to dry longer and then be fitted later with an exact fit. In order for this fitting to be accurate, a model of a plank must be made, a small strip with pieces of wood across it that butt into the gap at the top and bottom of the other fitted planks. This model is then taken out and stapled to the plank that is still to be installed, the tips of the pieces of wood are marked, then connected with the help of a straightedge with a pencil, so that a plank can then be sawn out to fit exactly.

The clinker construction works by overlapping the planks starting from the keel. A notch is made in the keel for the first plank. The first plank is inserted and nailed. The next plank overlaps the first one in the area of the landing (a few cm). So that they do not protrude too much from the frame in the landing area, both planks are planed so that the overlap is tight on one side and does not create so much friction on the other side when the boat is floating in the water. The landing area is secured with rivets.

23 July

a) On the second day the construction of the shields was explained as well as individual phase, the adjustment of the form, the attachment of the first layer with antique staples, the gluing on of the second layer of poplar strips with antique mixed glue (swamp lime 1 part, lean curd/casein 5 parts). Fixing is done with little wagons. After drying, the third layer can be applied with glue and nails. This is followed by the covering with linen or skin (glue), and the application of softened strips of cowhide. These dry with antique staples and are then pre-drilled at the edge and sewn with sea yarn. It was not yet primed or painted.

b) In the afternoon, we forged again what could not be finished the day before. Above all, shield bosses were stamped.

c) In boat building, the activities that had not yet been completed (clinkering, kraweel construction) were continued. As on the previous day, the method of steaming with water vapour was also demonstrated. One inch of wood in width has to boil for about two hours in the steam chamber, where steam is introduced from a boiler that is heated. After about three hours the plank was soft enough and could be bent and then left to dry. Next, oak was split with large wedges. Bevels were made with adzes. Different forms of axes were presented: Plane and wrenching were presented. There was also the option of planing, which was just as popular as the rest of the offerings.



Photo left above: Here, blacksmith Thomas Hürner is explaining the art of forging with a Roman esse (forge) (Photo by Mathias Orgeldinger).

Photo middle above: The tools used to build the boat are forged in the Roman way beforehand (Photo by Mathias Orgeldinger).

Photo right above: The sawing of a shield, in the background the future Danuvina Alacris (Photo by Giulia Iannicelli).

Photo left below: A shield boss made in the traditional Roman manner (Photo by Mathias Orgeldinger).

Photo middle below: To ensure that the wood has the right shape later, it must be extensively planed beforehand. It is a central process in Roman boat building (Photo by Giulia Iannicelli).

Photo right below: A drone was also used to collect footage. On the left (not in the picture) the blacksmithing station, on the right in the background the boat building station (Photo by Giulia Iannicelli).

REPORT ON LIVING DANUBE LIMES ACTIVITIES

1st Local Focus Group Event in Comagena/Tulln (Austria)

Under strict precautions regarding the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the first Local Focus Group Event took place at the Austrian pilot site Comagena/Tulln on 23 July 2021. The on-site activity to which stakeholders from different fields and levels, reaching from local museum associations to the Federal Monuments Office, from researchers to politicians, had been invited kicked off with an introduction to the municipality of Tulln and its Roman heritage held by a representative of the City Council followed by a presentation on the project Living Danube Limes itself providing an overview of the project incentives in general and its possibilities for Tulln.

After those introductory talks the operational manager of the Museum Management of the State of Lower Austria gave a brief description of the current work of the museums in Lower Austria involved in the association “Museums along the Danube Limes in Austria”. She highlighted their connecting role and their exemplary work in joint public relations and promotion of the Roman Danube Limes in Austria.

The talk of this museum expert was followed by an online lecture of Dr. Gabriele Schmidhuber who oversees the reconstruction of the Roman ships rebuilt at the Archaeological Park of Xanten, Germany. Connected via live feed, she elaborated on the various Roman ship finds relevant for their reconstructed vessels and described the challenges in the framework of rebuilding process, reaching from the sealing of the ship’s body to the official bureaucratic hurdles they have to take such as the TÜV certification and the licensing of such vessels to test them in open water.

The last lecture of the Local Focus Group Event was held by a representative of ICOMOS Austria and dealt with a more theoretical topic. It reflected on the material and immaterial heritage along the Roman Danube Limes, its definitions and classifications as well as the determination of boundaries or zones along such extensive heritage areas. The establishment of zones of high interest or unknown archaeological finds as well as buffer zones at the edge of a defined cultural landscape was therefore highlighted as a peculiar challenge.

After a short lunch break during which the participants had the opportunity for some free conversation and exchange while having some refreshing drinks, snacks and coffee, the group started for their on-site walking tour through the Roman Tulln guided by the two archaeological experts who had curated the new exhibition in the Roman Museum of Tulln. The tour led them through the area of the Roman fort past the still visible structural remains, such as the so-called “Salzturm” preserved right up to the roof.

In the framework of this Local Focus Group Event fruitful connections could be established and first ideas on future collaborations within the project and beyond were elaborated. The participants provided the Living Danube Limes team with valuable inputs and will hopefully join the partnership for future events.



Pilot Site Visit Event – Comagena/Tulln (Austria)

On 24 July 2021 the Austrian Pilot Site Visit took place in Tulln (Comagena).

Several activities were offered this hot summer day. First of all, guided tours through the remains of Roman Tulln such as the late Antique Fan- and Horseshoe Tower and the porta principalis dextra (right gate of the fort). Other guided tours were offered in the Roman Museum Tulln, where visitors could learn more about Roman Tulln, the military and archaeological finds of the area. Due to Covid 19 restrictions only small groups were allowed to participate in the guided tours within the museum, however the presented programme is going to be offered on regular basis by the Roman Museum Tulln. In addition the Ensemble ARS SERENA gave sonorous insights into the world of Roman music and instruments during their performances in the pavilion just outside the museum.

At the main square a Living Danube Limes information desk was installed as well as a children's station, which was organised by the department of Antiquity (Paris Lodron University Salzburg) with opportunity to play roman games, write on papyrus and paint in roman figures. There was also the possibility to pre-register for the connecting ship cruise in 2022, which starts in Germany and ends in the Black Sea.

In total a broad audience from local inhabitants, tourists, families with children, individually interested people as well as infrastructure and (public) service providers visited the Pilot Site Visit in Tulln (Comagena).



Photos by Danube University Krems

Living Danube Limes at the Klarisky Church

As part of the 5th annual Solstice on the Danube event (Slnovrat na Dunaji) organised by the Central Danubian Foundation the Municipal Monument Preservation Institute (MMPI) organised a presentation of the Living Danube Limes project in the premises of the Klarisky church on 1 July 2021. Through several lectures, the audience had the opportunity to learn more about the reconstruction of the Roman ship, the Roman Gerulata site in Bratislava Rusovce and the related UNESCO nomination project. The event was organised and moderated by archaeologist Margaréta Musilová from Municipal Monument Preservation Institute (MMPI).

The first presentation was held by the Lead Partner (LP) Anna Maria Kaiser from Danube University Krems on the LDL project and its activities. The second video presentation was held by Boris Dreyer from Friedrich - Alexander University Erlangen - Nuremberg about the construction of the Roman Danube river boat "Lusoria" type, followed by a virtual visit to the Carnuntum Archaeological Park accompanied by its director Marcus Wachter. Pavol Pauliny, Martin Varga and Roman Hajtmánek, project partners and colleagues from the Faculty of Architecture and Design of Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, lectured on digital applications and their possibilities in the presentation of the Roman cultural heritage on the Danube. Jaroslava Schmidtová from the ASP Bratislava City Museum and Ján Rajtár from the ASP Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra informed about the UNESCO World Heritage List nominated sites - Gerulata and Iža. The event ended with two short films which were produced by the MMPI



Photo by MMPI

in the past years. The first was about the cultural tourism activities between Gerulata and Carnuntum, called Limes day and the second Frontiers of the Roman Empire in Slovakia about Roman monuments between Devin and Komárno along the Danube river.

Main organiser of the event was the Municipal Monument Preservation Institute in cooperation with the Bratislava Cultural and Information centre. The lecturers were from Bratislava City Museum, Slovak Technical University in Bratislava and the Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra.

The Solstice on the Danube is a public show of events and communities on the river. Its goal is to bring more attention, life and people to the river before the arrival of summer in the month of the summer solstice. It is a month of open embankments, doors and various activities for the general public and at the same time a demonstration of the diversity of life, various communities and organizations associated with the river.

Recording of the presentation is available on You Tube among other interesting videos of MMPI channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DI9HNzuA1I>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6lqXD3z1s6ys0I5bFGvFyg/videos>

The Shields of Danuvina Alacris in Százhalombatta (Hungary)

On 2 October 2021, the 'Matrica' Museum and Archaeological Park of Százhalombatta celebrated the 25th anniversary of the park during the Autumn Festival of Museums.

The 3,5-hectare territory presently functions as an Archaeological Park that is part of the Matrica Museum. In the territory of this prehistoric open-air museum a 2,700-year-old tumulus was excavated, reconstructed and opened for the visitors. It was the first interactive display site presenting prehistoric monuments in Hungary established with a two-fold purpose. Firstly, to offer visitors a personal experience of prehistoric life offering family days, craft activities and workshops. Secondly, the park is simultaneously a setting for archaeological experiments where, in addition to the authentic reconstructions of prehistoric buildings, experiments are conducted using prehistoric techniques and copies of prehistoric tools and implements.

In the park, the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation and the Hungarian Society for Urban Planning had the opportunity to present the main elements of the Living Danube Limes project. We focused on the educational and research activities in Százhalombatta as a pilot site, and as an important element of the project: the reconstructed 4th century Roman vessel. The project involves the reconstruction of a 4th-century Danube vessel of the lusoria type that is scheduled to sail the Danube from Germany to Romania during the summer of 2022, with several stops in Hungary.



Photos by Gergő Máté Kovács and Zorán Vukoszávlyev

Kopačevo Pilot Site Visit (Croatia)

On 11 November 2021 the team of the Institute of Archaeology met with all of the invited guests at the parking lot of the nature park Kopački rit. The entirety of the meeting was held outside due to the COVID -19 pandemic restrictions. After the greeting from our hosts from nature park Kopački rit project team leader dr.sc. Ivana Ožanić started the short presentation of the project. The introduction and the short presentation were covered by local radio and tv station and the reporters continued the pilot site visit along the other guests of the planned pilot site visit. After a project introduction, a general overview of the roman history of the region was given and the group continued their walk through the village of Kopačevo. Locations where roman finds have been recovered were pointed out by the project lead and the talk of possible information tables and general visibility measures started leading to a short stop on the tour and a Q&A session. After the tour was over a demonstration of geophysics survey by LBIArch Pro was done on one of the possible locations of the Roman necropolis. Demonstration was accompanied by presentation of the used method and possible results that it might yield. After the demonstration another session of Q&A was held after which the pilot site visit was finished.



Photo by Institute of Archaeology

Local Focus Group Event at Nature Park Kopački rit (Croatia)

A local focus group event was held on 26 May 2021. The event venue was on the premises of the Nature Park Kopački rit, right next to our pilot site. The lecture was held outside in line with the Covid – 19 measures issued by the Croatian Ministry of health. The Institute of Archaeology gave the presentation; Living Danube Limes project leads dr. sc. Ivana Ožanić Roguljić. The presentation consisted of the general overview of the project, possible collaboration with present parties, and the timeline and project outputs and their implementation on the pilot site. Members of Osijek – Baranja county and Bilje municipality, along with the representatives of tourist boards both local and regional, were present at the meeting as well as several members of the directors' board from our host institution, nature park Kopački rit. There was also an archaeology expert from the Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences and a representative of the Croatian Ministry of Culture present at the meeting. After the lecture, a short Q&A and discussion were held. Logistics and future plans of the project were mostly discussed with probable locations for our upcoming riverboat cruise. Excellent feedback was given from both regional and local tourist boards with a promise of help and collaboration in the upcoming project activities. It was concluded that due to several factors, Roman heritage on the Croatian part of the Danube is barely mentioned and if at all exploited in a prism of tourism. After a short break, we visited nearby locations of the pilot site Kopačevo. Several suggestions about possible information boards mentioning Roman Danube limes and Roman Kopačevo, along with our project, were mentioned by our hosts from the Nature Park Kopački rit. In the end, everyone agreed that promotion of roman heritage on the Danube is the right way to go and create a new brand for this region of Croatia, which is slowly but surely establishing itself as a new tourist spot for domestic and international travellers alike.



Photos by Institute of Archaeology



Novi Sad-Conference

From 7-8 September 2021 the Novi Sad Faculty of Technical Sciences, Danube University Krems together with the Budapest University of Technology and Economics organized a conference within the scope of the Living Danube Limes project. Despite all the good expectations and hopes, this event, which was intended to be one of the first possible major face-to-face events of our project partners and invited speakers, had to be conducted completely digitally. Despite these unfortunate circumstances, the conference was a complete success with 20 speakers and over 100 participants, as the online format did not detract from the excellent contributions. Ranging from a presentation of the Danube Transnational Program by Stephen Halligan, to explanations of individual sections along the borders of the former Roman Empire or questions of monument preservation, a large number of exciting topics were presented. This melting pot of different perspectives allowed for synergies and exciting discussions following each presentation. We are already looking forward to the publication of the contributions within a conference volume and to a soon reunion in the coming year 2022, which may allow us meeting in presence.



Photo by Danube University Krems

Pilot Site Visits in Bononia/Vidin (Bulgaria)

Pilot site visits in 3 stages were conducted by the Bulgarian partners in the Living Danube Limes (LDL) project (preliminary stage in April 2021; stages 1 and 2 in October 2021): the pilot site coordinator - National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide” (NTC BG Guide), the Association of the Danube River Municipalities (ADRM), and the Centre for Heritage Interpretation (CHI). Together with the associated partner Regional Historical Museum of Vidin (RHMV) they discussed the present and future opportunities for further development of Bononia/Vidin, Sinagovtsi, and Ratiaria/Archar. During all stages of the event, the Living Danube Limes project objectives, endeavours, and expected results were introduced, as well as exchanging opinions on how to make the rich antique heritage of the Vidin area better known, and how to inspire heritage management institutes for innovative approaches, and local communities for active participation in heritage related initiatives.

The first stage started with a preliminary visit of the recent findings in Bononia/Vidin and the excavations in Sinagovtsi. The pilot site coordinator, NTC BG Guide, conducted an interview with the main archaeologist on spot Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zdravko Dimitrov from the National Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, who gave clear insights on the ongoing work progress and findings, adding essential information on the identification and further geomorphological survey.

The second stage aimed to introduce to the local stakeholders the project’s contribution to the definition of outstanding universal value of the Roman Danube Limes. The Municipality of Vidin and representatives of the local administration with tourism portfolio and museums were presented with the ambitions of the project and its outputs to this point. The nomination of the Danube Limes sites in Bulgaria for entry into the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage as a group site, the potential of the activities at the pilot site to enhance historical-cultural tourism, completion of archaeological forms for the sites with relevant historical, archaeological and tourist information (these will create content for an app on all Roman Danube Limes sites), etc. were highlighted.

The third stage was a publicly announced event for visiting Bononia/Vidin, Ratiaria/Archar and Sinagovtsi, so the general audience could also have a chance to get acquainted with the project in person. All stakeholders were part of the dispute about the crucial role of Vidin in the project’s activities. The director of the RHMV expressed their willingness to join the Danube Limes Museum Cluster. Local SMEs (from the hospitality industry) were emphasized on the tourism potential of the region of Vidin in connection to the Danube Limes.

All local stakeholders were fascinated by the project and especially by the future events related to the connecting cruise, as well as by the Museum Cluster, the LDL Application, and the Pilot Site VR reconstructions.



Photos from left to right (all photos by National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide” - NTC BG Guide):

Western Gate Bononia/Vidin, Ratiaria/Archar – old excavations, Ratiaria/Archar Thermi – new findings, Sinagovtsi

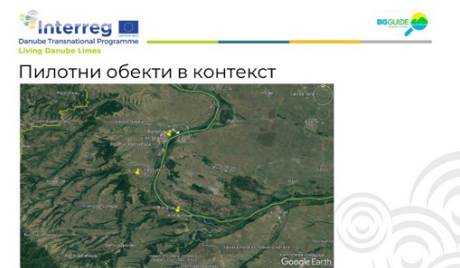
Local Focus Group Event in Bulgaria

On 25 November 2021 National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide” (NTC BG Guide) organized an online focus group dedicated to the Danube Roman Heritage as a part of a common European Cultural Route. Co-organisers were the other two Bulgarian partners - Association of the Danube River Municipalities (ADRM) and Centre for Heritage Interpretation (CHI). The two associated partners - Regional Historical Museum of Vidin (RHMV) and Association “Mos Maiorum Ulpiae Serdicae” (AMMUS) took actively part in the event and shared their expertise in the new Roman heritage findings in Bononia/Vidin and the value of living history events and reenactment activities.

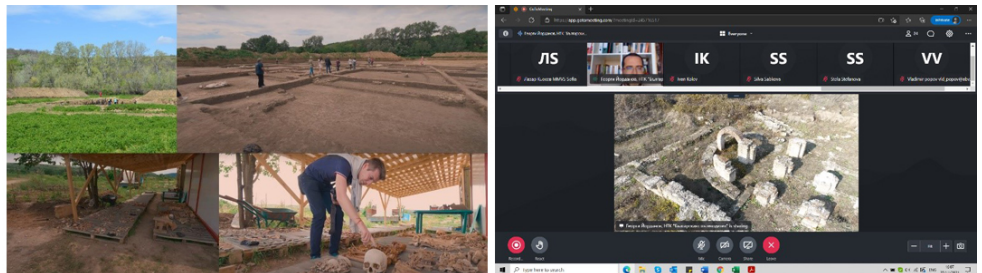
The following topics were on the agenda: general overview of the project, collaboration with all participants, presentation of the new findings in the nearby region Bononia/Vidin-Ratiaria/Archar – Sinagovtsi, presentation of the ship cruise and the timeline, including stops other than the pilot site, presentation of reenactment activities and Museum Cluster, discussions about steps and measures that should be taken to include Bulgaria in the UNESCO heritage list, collaborating and working with various types of local communities, discussions about the Danube Limes Museum Cluster, etc.

The online organization of the event allowed the partners to disseminate the project and the universal value of the Danube Limes in a broader scope, at a national level, and in all communities along the Bulgarian part of the Danube Limes. Representatives of local authorities in the Danube region, regional museums, national research institutions, as well as representatives of guides and tourist SMEs took active role in the discussions. All of them expressed their interest in taking part in further project events, and the presented museums expressed their readiness to join the Danube Limes Museum Cluster.

“Congratulations for the great project, because its results will be of benefit for everybody!”, highlighted one of the participants in the event.



Photos by NTC BG Guide



The Romanian Local Focus Group Event online

The Romanian Local Focus Group Event (D.C.3.5.) took place on 6 October 2021 starting at 10:00 a.m. Bucharest time, online, via the Zoom platform.

INCDT, UAUIM and MINAC were proud to welcome 19 participants from various organizations, such as national, regional and local public authorities, professional associations, SMEs and NGOs.

The event agenda was structured as follows: after a brief project introduction and presentation by UAUIM, INCDT presented the history of the Roman fortresses on the Danube (the Danube Limes) and detailed two of the most striking lower-key Roman sites – Dinogetia and Sacidava, which is also the pilot site selected to be part of the Living Danube Limes project. The next presentation, also by UAUIM, focused on the different visibility measures which can be planned and undertaken to promote Sacidava and its surrounding territory, including the two rural settlements close by, as tourism and heritage sites worthy of visiting. The last project-related presentation before the free debates and feedback was a short overview of the communication activities and platforms that are available to follow the project progress, by INCDT. An intervention by MINAC showed the pilot site before and after the geo-spatial prospecting and detailed a few things on its historical importance.

The debate, which included suggestions, proposals and comments from the Romanian Architects Professional Association, the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism, the Rasova Mayor's Office and the project partners, provided valuable inputs on the following subjects:

- ways of ensuring that the project cruise with the lusoria roman ship will take place effectively
- ways of ensuring the safety and sustainability of the ship mooring, either through static or mobile means (river port, berth or pontoon)
- accessibility of visitor/tourist groups from the point of landing to the fortress / museum in Rasova
- the possibility of local development through sustainable tourism, particularly maintaining the natural environment, as per the National Architects Professional Association (OAR)
- the development of various technology based and traditional methods for promotion (VR, AR, etc)
- integrated local development projects, focusing mainly on infrastructure, like roads, river ports, etc
- the involvement in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, where the National Route of Roman Camps is defined as a potential touristic route and 5 of the 20 sights included can be financed directly.

More than two hours later, the event was closed after the debate and the Q&A session were over, with a renewed invitation from the Rasova Mayor's Office to visit and plan the future project events locally, so as to better grasp the many opportunities that the area offers and to generate new ideas for local development.

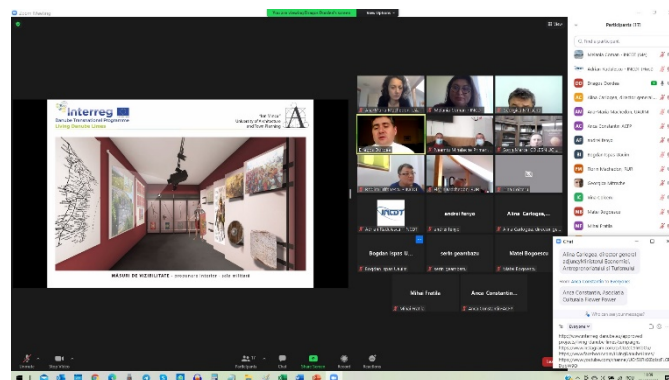


Photo by INCDT

FOLLOW-UP REPORTS ON EXTERNAL EVENTS

Carnuntum Live Stream

Especially with a project like ours, it is obvious or rather almost impossible to close one's eyes to social media. Particularly in times of a pandemic, this is a way to reach an audience that would otherwise be unreachable due to countless cancelled events or limited participant sizes. Our work so far shows that with regular contributions a larger audience can be reached and thus a participation in our project is possible even in such difficult times. Against this background, a livestream had been planned, which was supposed to give a broader audience an insight into the Carnuntum Archaeological Park. After this event had to be postponed several times due to the pandemic situation, it could be carried out within the framework of the Late Antique Festival on 15 August 2021. It was also the first real large-scale event in Carnuntum since the restrictions with COVID-19, which showed the Archaeological Park with a large crowd of visitors and Living History performers. Such events make people from far away aware of cultural and exciting events, the knowledge of which would not reach them in any other way. For the following projects, it can only be suggested to everyone not to underestimate this resource of disseminating information for enhancing and promoting project content and events.



Saving Values! 1st International Conference of Interreg DANUrB+

Several partners, incl. Danube University Krems (DUK), Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) and National Tourism Cluster "Bulgarian Guide" (NTC BG Guide) took part in the International Conference of our sister project – DANUrB+, "DANube Urban Brand + Building Regional and Local Resilience through the Valorization of Danube's Cultural Heritage".

11 October 2021 is the birth date of the DANUrB International Association (DIA) in Esztergom, Hungary. The ceremony wrapped up the 1st DANUrB+ International Conference, hosted by the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) and the Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre (KÉK). The aim of the Association is to transform an international project between 7 countries into a sustainable, active, and rooted collaboration format, to boost knowledge transfer on operational strategies to sustain cross-border corporations in an institutionalized framework focusing on the different eco-social aspects. One of the purposes of the Association is to coordinate cultural initiatives along the Danube River and to create the certification label of the Danube Settlements (Danube Urban Brand).

The establishment became evident at the „Saving Values” Conference in Szent Adalbert Event Center, Esztergom. Why there? The place is symbolic, it commemorates the 20th anniversary of the reconnection of two cities on the opposite banks of the Danube: Esztergom (HU) and Sturovo (SK) by the Mária Valéria bridge, which literal reconnection became a rather symbolic act after 56 years of history. The focus points of the conference were introducing established practices of significant cross-border associations and collaborations, sharing know-how about strategic thinking in terms of Danube communities, examining connectivity potential among different networks, boosting networking of networks considering long-term impact and quality label systematization.

Cross-sectoral and cross-project cooperation at an international level were highlighted. One of them was the Living Danube Limes, presented by Prof. Dipl. Arch. ETH Dr. Christian Hanus, DUK and Gergő Kovács, PhD, BME who shared the important aspects and tools of the project.

“The work to develop communities and their potentials along the Danube, the work to define what is the value and what is the heritage along the Danube, that should be revived, needs a personal commitment”, said Dr. Balint Kádár (BME), leader of the DANUrB+ project, which served as the basis of the newly established Association.



Photo left by NTC BG Guide, photo middle by INCDT, photo right by INCDT

The Shields of Danuviana Alacris in Dömös

On 18 September 2021, with the participation of the project's associated strategic partner, the Hungarian Society for Urban Planning and the project partner Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Architecture, Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation, the visitors of the Dömös Green Days (Dömösi Zöd Forgatag) had the opportunity to get acquainted with the main principles of the Living Danube Limes project.

The event was organised by the Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate for disseminating the importance of preserving natural values alongst River Danube. During the programme, visitors could learn about the region's wildlife and unique natural values in playful ways. The all-day programme included animal show, children's music, a travelling cave, traditional fishing demonstration on the Danube bank, e-bikes, archery, crafts and nature activities, and a market with local manufacturers and producers. During the day, for those who want to get some exercise, guided hikes were organised to the Danube and to the Rám Gorge.

Since Dömös is located at an important point of the Danube, north to Budapest with wonderful natural conditions, the visitors were able to get acquainted with the plans of the ship which will pass the settlement, and even suggest a colouring for the shields of the lusoria being built in Germany.



Photos by Emőke Kósa, Gergő Máté Kovács, Zorán Vukoszávlyev

Regatta Batina – Ilok during International Danube day & TID

During International Danube day & TID, regatta Batina - Ilok organized by Javna ustanova za zaštitu prirode Osječko - baranjske županije, IAHR participated with the presentation of the project accompanied by an ancient Roman food workshop and living history presentation. Members of IAHR Living Danube Limes team cooked *globi* and served *conditum paradoxum* to the visitors of the venue. Meanwhile, living history troupe Red Čuvara Grada Zagreba presented the newly "reformed" *Legio VI Herculia* from the late 3rd century, stationed initially in nearby fortress *Tutoburgio* today Dalj. The venue was Aljmaš port on the Danube. After the regatta was over, participants and other guests gathered in Aljmaš where our team presented the project announcing, among other project plans of the Danube river cruise of our *Danuviana Alacris*. A presentation of Roman food accompanied our short presentation. Printed newsletters and colouring books for children were handed out to promote the project with the participants.

International Danube Day

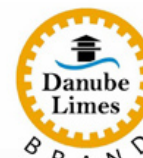
The International Danube Day is marked every year, on 29 June and celebrated in all fourteen countries that signed the International Convention for the Protection of the Danube. On this occasion the Public Water Management Company "Srbijavode" organized an event "Discover the Danube - Roman roads", which took place in the Viminacium Archaeological Park on 29 June 2021. In addition to the ecological, strategic and tourist aspects of the Danube River, another important segment was also pointed out this year – archaeological and historical value of the cultural heritage in Serbia and the whole Danube area.

The participants emphasized the necessity of rational and sustainable use of this precious resource, especially due to the growing evidence that our future depends on our ability to manage the natural resources in a responsible way.

The representative of the Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade, Senior research associate Nemanja Mrđić, held a lecture titled *The importance of inscribing Roman heritage on the UNESCO World heritage List*. This presentation showed the Roman limes in Serbia, as well as the ongoing preparations for the UNESCO inscription of it. The presentation pointed out the importance of the nomination, as well as the significance of the common Roman heritage of the whole Danube area, and the inscription on the UNESCO Heritage list as a Danube Limes cluster. Among other things, Living Danube Limes project was presented, and caught the attention of all the participants (about 70 people). The most important was the fact that the representatives of the relevant ministers (Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Ministry for the Environmental Protection) were present and aware of this project's potential. Important and potential stakeholders from the region were also present due to the high profile meeting and many contacts that can be exploited for the project duration were established.



Photos by Institute of Archaeology Belgrade



The XLIV Annual Meeting of the Serbian Archaeological Society

The XLIV Annual Meeting of the Serbian Archaeological Society was held between 14-16 October 2021 in Paraćin, Serbia. The hosts of the event were colleagues from the Homeland Museum Paraćin. This important regional archaeological gathering was organized in form of a conference, consisting of several sections and thematic sessions, with international partners and speakers from different countries.

The representative of the Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade, research assistant Ivana Kosanović, held a lecture titled *Roman Lederata and its promotion within the international project Living Danube Limes* within the thematic session: *Interpretation of archaeological heritage: practices, concepts and perspectives*. The presentation provided basic information about Roman site *Lederata*, which is also Serbian pilot site in LDL project.



Photo by Institute of Archaeology Belgrade

The audience was also informed about the nomination Frontiers of the Roman Empire as a UNESCO World Heritage cluster, as well as the importance of the Roman limes sites in Serbia. The attendees were introduced to Living Danube Limes project, its main objectives and expected results. The presentation

highlighted the importance of the project for the international cooperation and for local communities, and stated the project activities that will take place on *Lederata*. The presentation also discussed the possibilities of further tourist exploitation, positive collaboration that IAB had with the local authorities in recent period, as well as further steps in promoting this important site. This topic aroused great interest and a lot of questions in the discussion that followed at the end of the session. The audience consisted of approximately 25–30 people from three countries (Serbia, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro), including participants in the session. The whole conference was recorded by a camera, so a YouTube video will be available soon to the wider audience.

TRAME Dissemination Event: Round Table on TRAME Results

The project TRACCE DI MEMORIA – TRAME is an international project co-funded by the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Commission. Main goal of the project is the promotion of the educational value of cultural heritage, making it more visible and recognized at societal, scientific and institutional level. Target groups of TRAME project are primarily high school teachers, heritage managers and high school pupils.

TRAME team with their partner institutions organized this event as a small conference, a round table with overview of the project results. The aim of this event was to share the project results so far, but also to show experiences of the best practices TRAME has discovered. Living Danube Limes project was selected with several other best EU funded projects dealing with cultural heritage and education, and we were invited to present the project as an example of the best practice.

The representative of the Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade, research assistant Milica Marjanović, held a lecture titled *Living Danube Limes - Roman heritage that connects the Danube region*. The presentation introduced the audience with Living Danube Limes project. Basic information about the project were presented, such as number of participating partners, budget, duration, requirements, main objectives, expected results and current progress of the project. The presentation highlighted the importance of the common Roman heritage of the whole Danube area, mentioned inscription on the UNESCO Heritage list as a Danube Limes cluster, and pointed out the importance of the project for the international cooperation, but also for local communities.

The audience consisted of approximately 40 people from different European countries.



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Living Danube Limes

Living Danube Limes

Roman heritage that connects the Danube region

Milica Marjanović, Institute of Archaeology Belgrade
Nemanja Mrđić, Institute of Archaeology Belgrade

- Reconstruction of a late Roman ship of the 4th century AD - *Danuvina Alacris*
- Authentic process, using Roman tool replicas

Interreg
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Living Danube Limes

TRAME
TRACCE DI MEMORIA

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Photos by Institute of Archaeology Belgrade

SAVE THE DATES

Save the Dates in Slovakia

June 2022 will be the month during which the Roman heritage of the southwestern Slovakia region will be presented in Bratislava in a great manner! MMPI, STUBA, City of Bratislava and our other partners are planning to (co)organize events related to the planned stay of the "Connecting cruise" Roman ship in Bratislava. The ship will be accompanied by the "Limes Day" event, which is traditionally organized to promote Roman monuments in Bratislava. Several events are

also planned in connection to the big exhibition with the title "Romans and Slovakia " launched in December 2021 in the Slovak National Museum - Museum of History.

Eagle on the Danube Festival of Ancient Heritage, Bulgaria, Svishtov, Roman Fortress Nove, June 2022

Festival of Ancient Heritage Eagle on the Danube is held every year in the town of Svishtov from 10-12 June. There are more than 300 reenactors participating from Bulgaria, Poland, Italy, Romania and France. Among them are groups for historical reenactment such as the First Thracian Cohort and First Italic Legion. The festival is held at the well-preserved military camp of Novae, near the Danube town of Svishtov. The festival was first held in 2008 and since then has become a yearly tradition held from May to June. Participants from different countries present amazing performances during these days. During the festival the reenactors present ancient history - culture, lifestyle and military clashes between Rome and the people in Lower Danube. The Eagle on the Danube festival became a leading forum where people interested in history and antiquity gather, from all over Bulgaria and from Europe.



Festival "The Fire of the Danube", July 2022 – Tutrakan, Bulgaria

One of the biggest summer events on the Danube river takes place each year in the town of Tutrakan in late July in the riverside park. A lot of cultural and sport events are organized during the festival. On the last day of it the traditional celebration of the river takes place, including contests with fishing boats, swimming across the Danube, culinary competitions for the most delicious fish soup, grilled fish and the best recipe for cooking fish. The event includes animations, exhibitions, outdoor performances of music and dance groups. Every year, the festival organisers add new elements to the program, such as riding scooters, paragliding, boat trips between Tutrakan and Oltenita, outdoor opera, etc.

Rock concerts warm up the visitors at the evening before the start of a light show on the river – "Danube of Fire" and grandiose fireworks.

The festival is very attractive to international audience and many people from neighbouring countries and Europe are coming especially for it.



VISIT US ONLINE



<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/living-danube-limes>



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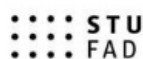
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EUROPEAN UNION

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SLOVAK UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY IN BRATISLAVA
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