

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

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Interreg



Danube Transnational Programme

Living Danube Limes

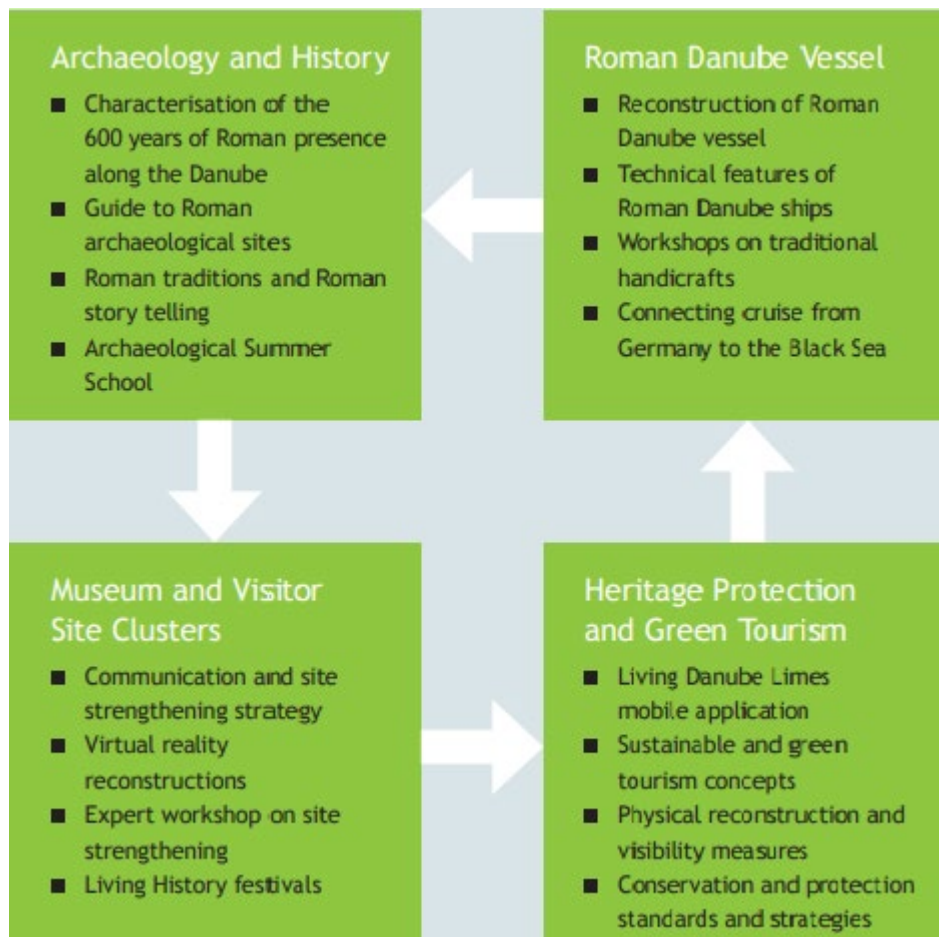


LOOKING BACK AT A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

In this final newsletter we want to look back at 2.5 years of successful implementation of the numerous activities in our project Living Danube Limes.

The main aim of Living Danube Limes is to strengthen the Danube Region by means of its shared heritage, the Roman heritage along the river Danube, the former northern border of the Roman Empire. This heritage is a legacy that connects the modern nation states along the Danube. In our project we strived to make this shared Roman heritage and history visible, tangible and inclusive. For that we connected academic research, presentation and preservation of this heritage with popularisation measures and incentives to make the Roman past come alive – on land as well along and on the river Danube itself; the latter with our reconstructed Roman river patrol vessel, the Danuvina Alacris, which in summer and fall 2022 travelled from Germany to Romania and tangibly connected the partner countries with each other and their common Roman history.

The four main parts of Living Danube are tightly interlinked as shown on the graph and will be presented via selected highlights in the following. The most recent and successful endeavour of our Living Danube Limes connecting cruise from Germany to Romania will start this summary review.

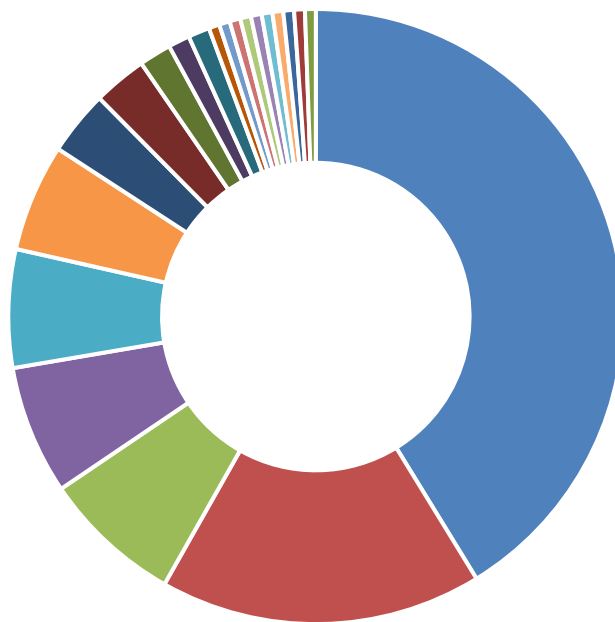






CONNECTING CRUISE 2022 – WPT2 MUSEUM AND VISITOR SITE CLUSTERS

The start of the biggest event within Living Danube Limes did not go at all as planned – the low water level of the Danube prohibited the start in Ingolstadt in Germany, and last-minute alterations had to be made to bring the Danuvina Alacris to Kehlheim, from where she could start her long journey after the kick-off festival on July 15th. From then on however, the cruise went smoothly for the next 2600 kilometres to its final destination in Harsova, Romania, which was reached on October 18th; (the initial plan to go all the way into the Black Sea had to be abandoned because of the war in Ukraine and the regard for safety of crew and ship).

A maximum of 28 crew fit on the Danuvina Alacris, including the helmsman and the bow officer. Most of the time this number was not reached, which had the benefit of not overcrowding the limited space on which the rowers spent up to 16 hours per day. The almost 200 rowers who joined the adventure for one, two or even more weeks from mid-July to mid-October came literally from all over the world, as is displayed in the graph below. In addition to them local recruits joined in for periods of a few days on short term notice – some of them realising how unique an opportunity it was to join this cruise when the Danuvina Alacris passed by their shores of the Danube – that is why the graph gives only a rough overview of the countries of origin of our volunteer rowers. We were however very impressed that people from as far away as Australia and the USA joined our connecting cruise. To give you only the briefest of ideas we selected a few photos from those marvellous weeks.

Participants Connecting Cruise 2022 - Countries



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  Austria |  Germany |  Great Britain |  Bulgaria |
|  Serbia |  Slovakia |  Italy |  Hungary |
|  Ireland |  Belgium |  Spain |  Australia |
|  Croatia |  Czech Republic |  Liechtenstein |  Lithuania |
|  Montenegro |  Netherlands |  Romania |  USA |
|  Switzerland | | | |

The connecting cruise in pictures



©Margit Schedel



©Alexander Hilverda

In Germany the Danuvina Alacris was accompanied by the F.A.N., an Oberstimm-type boat, from the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg. While on some stages most of the participants were dressed as Romans, other stages drew the attention of the spectators to topics such as the ongoing UNESCO World Heritage inscription of the Roman Danube Limes.



©Teichmann



©Alfred Horack



©STU FAD



©Margaréta Musilová

Where ever we went, we received a most warm welcome – in this case in and around Bratislava.



©Milotai Richárd



©Zsofi Huszar

We still do not know why the captain had to go overboard in Esztergom in Hungary – one of the many remaining mysteries of the connecting cruise. And by the way, the weather was not always pure sunshine ... though it was when passing the city centre of Budapest.



©Ádám Pálvölgyi, Zoltán Dinya



©Rita Dankovics



©IAHR



©IAHR



©Marko Jelusic

On the way from Croatia to Serbia, always following the stork, and passing the first lock in Serbia, Djerdap 1.



©Anna Kaiser



©Margarita Borisova

Enjoying a warm welcome at the Roman festival in Vidin Bulgaria. The sunny weather also saw brave rowers swimming in the Danube in October.



©Anna Kaiser

Final impressions from the connecting cruise from Romania – including the Roman festival at the Romanian pilot site Rasova.



©Adrian Radulescu



©Adrian Radulescu

WPT1 – ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

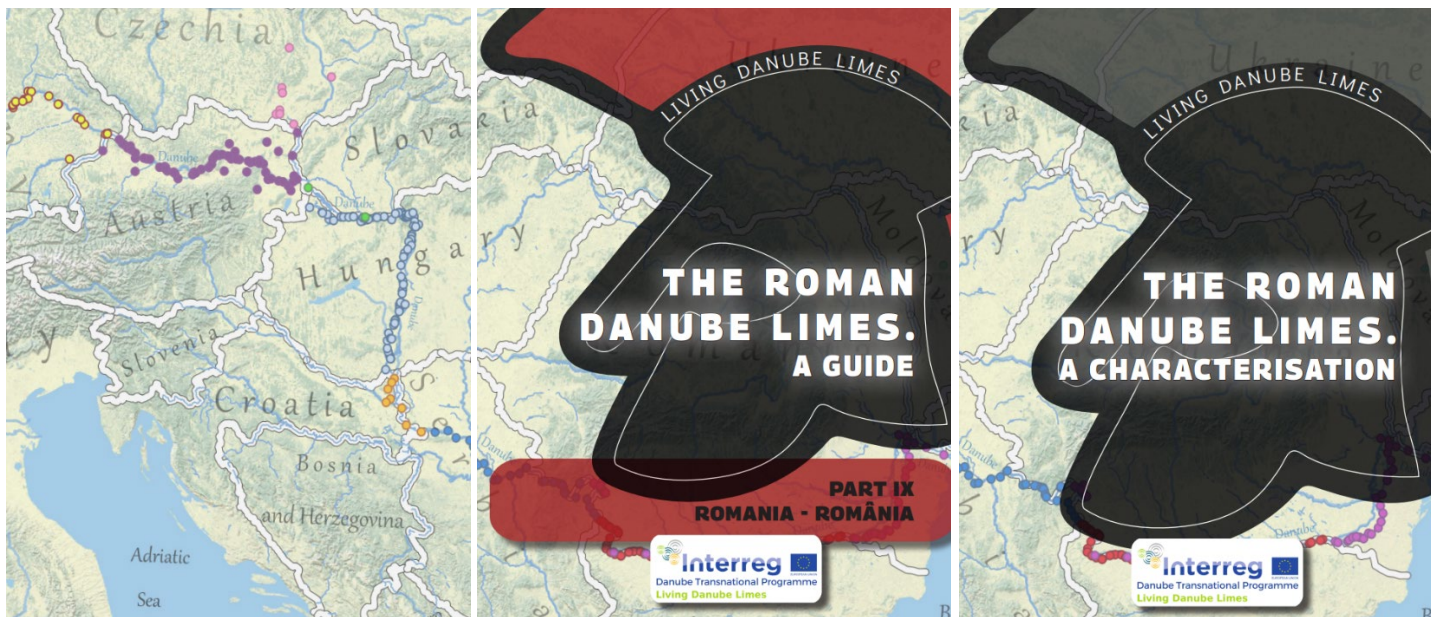
Selected Highlights

The three highlights we want to present in this last issue of our newsletter are the two booklets on the Danube Limes from Germany to the Black Sea, the Archaeological Summer School in Viminacium in Serbia and the geopropections carried out at selected pilot sites in the eastern Danube Region.

Guide Booklets from Germany to Romania

Two booklets which are available online present the Danube Limes to the interested audience. The first one is a characterisation, including sources providing insight into the Roman history of the Danube limes, the appearance and development of the limes and the whole region, the question if the Danube was more a connecting waterway in antiquity or a natural barrier, various aspects of Roman life in the limes region – from military, technical features, economy and trade to family life, clothing and cult and religion.

The second booklet consists of ten parts, separated by partner country and listing and describing the most important Roman remains to be found in the respective country, thus acting more like a traditional guide book. Both combined give an exceptional and readily accessible overview of the whole Roman Danube region.



Archaeological Summer School Viminacium 2021

Due to the pandemic the archaeological summer school in Viminacium was split in an online part with 30 participants from 12 countries, including Turkey and South Korea. One of the tasks tackled by the participants was an interpretation of several photos of the geophysical surveyed area. This was a preliminary step for the second phase of the summer school on site in Viminacium, later in 2021. Out of the 30 participants from the first phase seven participated. The programme was conducted over four days. The first two days encompassed activities in Viminacium Archaeological Park and Research and visitors' centre. 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 centre "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.



LIVING DANUBE LIMES PROJECT

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

Viminacium Summer school 14-18 June 2021



© Institute of Archaeology Belgrade

Geoprospections on pilot sites 2021

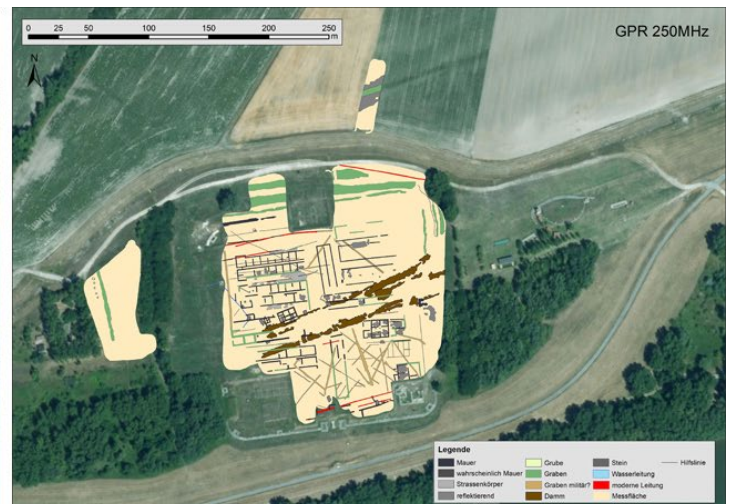
For the geoprospections the LBI ArchPro used latest geophysical prospection methods – magnetometry and ground penetrating radar (GPR) – to map archaeological features that are hidden in the ground – all without excavating. These highly sensitive instruments can detect buried structures when their physical properties contrast measurably with their surroundings, such as stone walls and settings, pits, postholes and fireplaces.



© LBI ArchPro: Archaeological geophysical prospection for the Living Danube Limes project



Structures still below ground could thus be made visible and interpreted, as seen below. This not only gives insight into Roman remains still below ground and adds to the history of the Danube Region, but also creates vital knowledge for protection measures to be implemented to also safeguard heritage that is still below ground.



© LBI ArchPro: Photo left: Overview of the GPR survey with 250 MHz antennas; Photo right: Archaeological interpretative mapping of the GPR surveys of the Roman fortress at Iža.

WPT3 – HERITAGE PROTECTION AND GREEN TOURISM


Selected Highlights

The two highlights we selected from this last pillar of our project, which brings together everything developed in the preceding workpackages, are the Living Danube Limes smart phone application and sustainable protection measures for cultural heritage.

Living Danube Limes Application

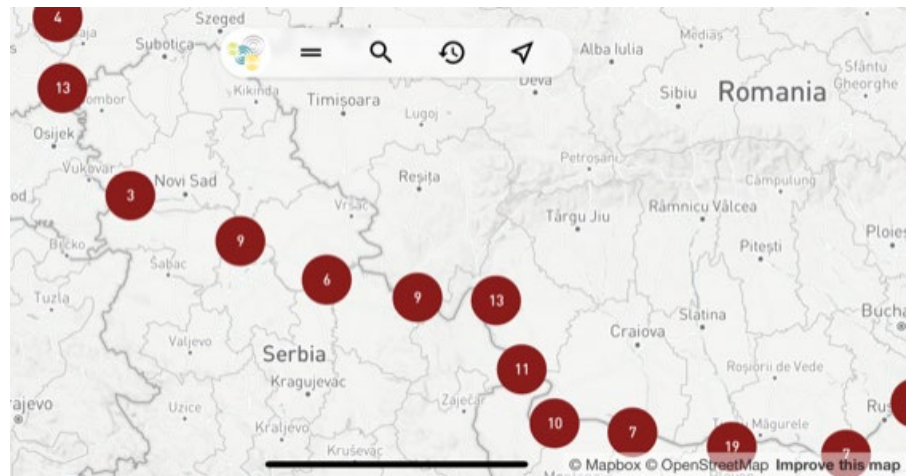
Drobeta



-  Basic information ▼
-  Gallery ▼
-  Archaeological remains ▼
-  Remarks ▲

Placed across the fortification Pontes/Transdrobeta, the Roman fort from Drobeta was built with the purpose of protecting the northern head of the Roman stone bridge, built at the order of Emperor Trajan, between the two Dacian wars.

The smart phone application brings easy access to the data collected in the guide booklets, information on Roman history and archaeology, local traditions, museums, public transport as well as information and location of the reconstructed patrol vessel, our Danuvina Alacris. It is designed as mobile guide, based on digital maps, presenting more than 350 archaeological sites along the Danube. Virtual reality reconstructions made in Living Danube Limes are accessible via the application, as are numerous photos supplied by the project partners, to give the users a first impression of what awaits them on site. The application is available in English and all the project partner languages.

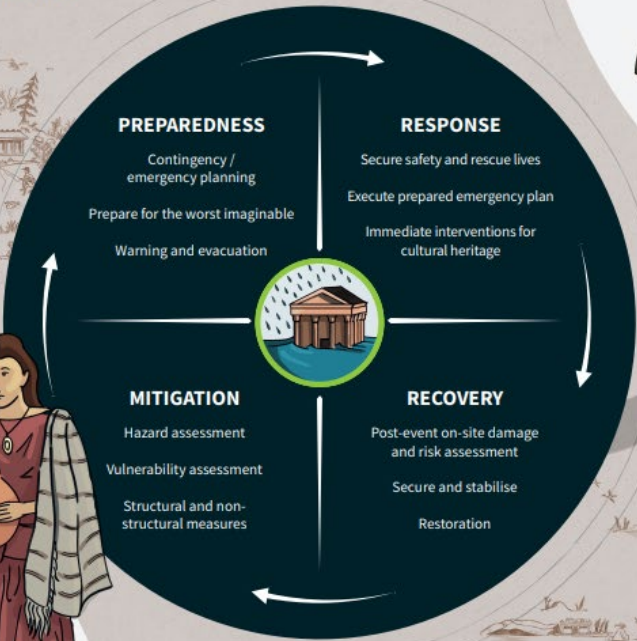


Cultural Heritage Protection

When it comes to protecting the Roman heritage from natural or man-made disasters or illicit excavations and trade, preparation is paramount. We highlight this with our “respect and protect” infographic, in which the disaster management cycle illustrates that preparedness is necessary to generate a successful response to any threat for cultural heritage.

RESPECT AND PROTECT THE ROMAN HERITAGE

- ! It has Survived for 2000 Years – Keep it Safe for the Next Millenia
- ◆ It Connects the Modern Danube Region Countries
- ◆ It is all about People – Past, Present and Future



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