

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



STATUS QUO OF THE WORK IN LIVING DANUBE LIMES

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WPM

On 18-19 May 2021, the Living Danube Limes partnership came together for their 2nd Project Partner Meeting. The initial plan was to meet physically in Constanța, Romania, but due to the still continuing COVID-19 situation and the related travel restrictions in Europe the partners met online. However, this circumstance allowed opening the meeting to a wider group of participants, thus welcoming also several representatives of Associated Strategic Partners as well as the Danube Transnational Programme Joint Secretariat.

In two sessions, the institutions in charge of the individual work packages (WP) in cooperation with the involved partners presented the current state of progress of their work. Therefore, the participants of the meeting heard about the final milestones in the archaeological and historical characterisation of the Roman Danube Limes as archaeological site cluster (WP T1) as well as on the first development steps and the planned outline of the Living Danube Limes mobile and web application (WP T1). Further, the results of the museums landscape analysis along the Danube (WP T2) and the current state of progress of the shipbuilding was presented to them (WP I1).

Since the partnership could not physically visit the most Eastern partner country Romania, as initially foreseen for the meeting, the Romanian colleagues prepared a virtual side programme in order to introduce the partners to their great practical work and on-site initiatives as well as to give them an insight to their archaeological landscape.

After two days of exchange on the last year's project efforts and progress in the diverse work packages, the meeting was concluded with an outlook to the upcoming 1st International Project Conference which is planned to be held as hybrid event (physical and online) in order to reach as many people as possible after this time of restricted mobility. Therefore, the Living Danube Limes project partners, international experts and stakeholders and other guests will come together on 7-9 September 2021, either physically at Novi Sad, Serbia, or via Live Stream online. For details on the conference please have a look at section "Save the Dates".

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WP T1

One central issue of WP T1 and the basis of all further project efforts is the characterisation of the Roman Danube Limes as diverse archaeological site cluster covering a chronological development of 600 years and geographical length of 2400 kilometres. After a thorough examination of various aspects of this manifold heritage site, the Living Danube Limes project partners have started to collect data on all Roman sites known so far along the Danube, which will be put together to a physical limes guide in several languages within the next months.

In order to illustrate and convey the diversity of the Roman heritage along the Danube as well as to demonstrate the current state of research in the various partner countries, the Living Danube Limes partnership has identified the central research gaps in their respective country and collected national traditions originating in Roman antiquity, the latter ranging from national festivities and language to funeral traditions, wine production and recipes. In this context, the partners also discussed the potential of modern Roman story-telling as well as of gamification as promising tools to promote and convey the Roman heritage today.

Further, all eight pilot sites – one in each of the countries Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania – have been successfully identified and their potential for future project activities has been analysed. The majority of all further project events and implementations on national level will be carried out and presented to the public at those places. For further details, please have a look at the section "Pilot Site Presentations" of this newsletter.

Initial steps in the development of the Living Danube Limes mobile and web application have been taken and a first outline sketching the main functions and contents has been drawn. The app will be designed highly inclusive in order to reach as many and as different people as possible and will provide various information on the archaeological Roman sites, the museums along the Danube, events and other relevant information for tourists and visitors. It will be available in several languages and different modes (audio mode, easy language mode, children mode) offering also an interactive map with diverse functions.

Pilot Site Presentations

Roman Watchtower "Am Vorderen Schloßbuck" WT 14/4 with the Fortlet "Am Hinteren Schloßbuck" (Germany)

The multiple component site of the Roman Watchtower "Am Vorderen Schloßbuck" WT 14/4 with Fortlet "Am Hinteren Schloßbuck" is located near Gunzenhausen (Bavaria, Germany) on the hill "Schloßbuck", at an altitude of 483 m AA (49° 07' 01" N; 10° 46' 17" E). The site is open to the public and easily accessible as a well-trodden path runs here along the Limes route.

Watchtower (WT) 14/4 was restored in 1980; it has a side length of 4.7x6.3 m and an unusual subsequently inserted intermediate wall inside. The Roman stone tower was originally located directly on the wall, while the former wooden tower, that was replaced by the stone tower, was cut by the stonewall further to the east, recognisable through the ditch. There is no connection between the so-called Alemannic ring wall, which actually dates from prehistoric times, and the stone tower, as excavations in 1980 proved. To the west of the tower, there was a passage in the Limes. A modern wooden wall indicates the course of the ancient palisade.

After 500 m from WT 14/5, south of the recognisable rubble wall of the Limes – marked by a sign – are the remains of a small fort (fortlet "Am Hinteren Schloßbuck"), 18 m from the Limes, measuring 20x20 m. A ground elevation is clearly visible. Inside, there is a 19th century memorial stone with the inscription "Castrum Romanorum". Superficial investigations inside revealed wooden buildings and a 3rd century soldier's fibula. The use of the site, which is also evidenced by a hinge-arm fibula, can be narrowed down to the second quarter of the 3rd century. According to a building inscription, a Thracian cohort had built the first stone camp at the modern Gnotzheim, 6.5 km from the Limes, under Antoninus Pius (138-161 CE), while a wooden camp is assumed to have existed there since Domitian times. At this time we can also assume the construction of the small fort and the WT 14/4. They were destroyed in 259/260 CE at the latest. The small fort and the WT 14/4 are part of a larger fortification system with other forts and watchtowers. To the west lies the nearest fort from the pilot site (Gunzenhausen, the ancient name is not known), which is only 300 m from the Limes. The fort of Gunzenhausen is strategically related to the cohort camps of Gnotzheim (Mediana) to the southwest and Theilenhofen (Iciniacum) to the southeast, which are further back from the Limes. This defensive triangle, geographically organised within a "striking distance" not only obeys strategic considerations with remarkable clarity. It is an arrangement, which is also optimised under supply aspects.

In 1897, Eidam's excavations, with the means of the time and due to overbuilding, only revealed parts of the wall of the Gunzenhausen fort. The principia is partly overlaid by the evangelical town church. A wooden predecessor camp is not certain and not proven. The area of 0.7 ha was reinforced by 86x80 m long side walls. The existence of four gates is uncertain. It is highly probable that the garrison of Gunzenhausen was supplied by the cohort camps of Gnotzheim and Theilenhofen. This assumption could be inferred by the geographical, logistical and strategic connection between the fortifications described above.

In addition to the building inscriptions mentioned above, which have survived for the Gnotzheim cohorts camp, the descriptions of the historian Tacitus in his book *Germania* (98 CE) offer some characteristics not so much of the Rhaetian Limes itself as of the area enclosed by the Upper Germanic and Rhaetian Limes: the *agri decumates*. In chapter 29 he describes the population of the *agri decumates*, which was of various origins, and in chapter 41 the Germanic population beyond the Rhaetian Limes and north of the Danube, which included in particular the apparently privileged Hermunduri. Furthermore, there are documentary sources of the provincial administration of earlier and later times, but also of the life of soldiers in the legions, especially the *cohortes*, *auxiliae* and *alae*, but also of private individuals who formerly held high posts in the administration of Raetia, such as the former *praeses provinciae* of Raetia, Valerius Venustus. This evidence comes from the entire period of Roman occupation south of the Rhaetian Limes, even after the retreat around 250 CE to the Danube-Illyr-Rhine Limes.

The museum of the town of Gunzenhausen, located in the town centre near the town hall, provides in-depth knowledge. Important finds from the Roman period in the area, for example from the camp at Theilenhofen, are also presented there.

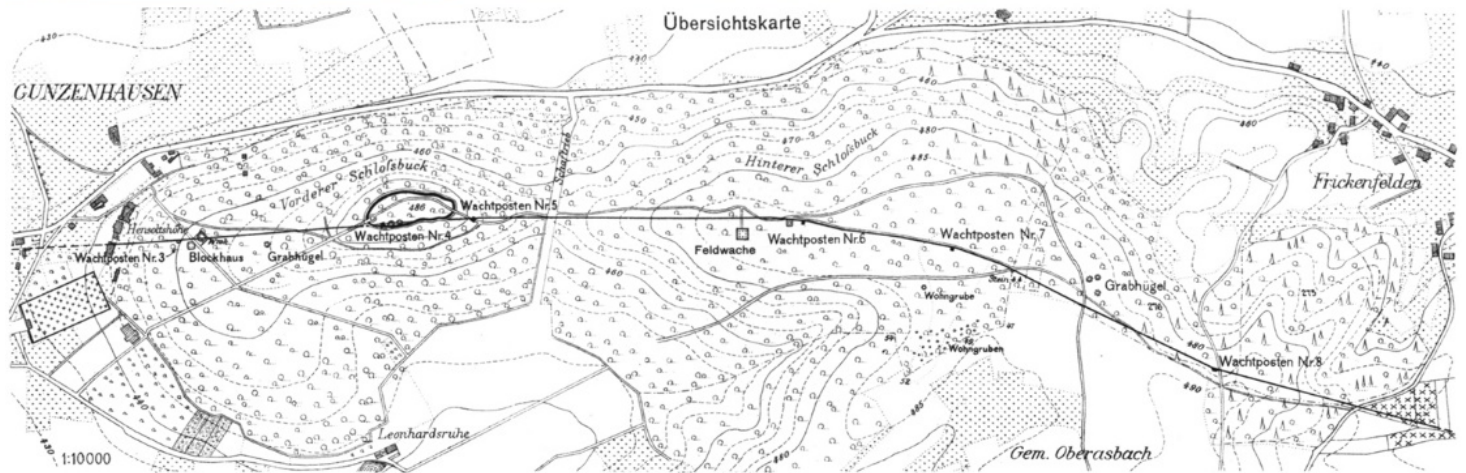


Photo above left:

The watchtower 14/4 located on the "Vorderer Schloßbuck" between the fort of Gunzenhausen and the small fort on the "Hinterer Schloßbuck" was restored in 1980 (Photo by Boris Dreyer).

Photo above middle:

Today, the small fort ("Kleinkastell am Hinteren Schloßbuck") can only be recognised above ground by its distinctive ground elevations (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kleinkastell_Hinterer_Schlo%C3%9Fbuck.jpg).

Photo above right:

Near the watchtower 14/4 a sign informs about the tower and the Limes palisade, the latter was partly reconstructed in modern times and indicates the former course of the palisade (Photo by Boris Dreyer).

Map:

Overview map of the Limes section near Gunzenhausen with watchtower 14/4 (= Wachtposten Nr. 4) and the small fort (= Feldwache) (Reference: Ernst Fabricius, Friedrich Hettner, Oscar von Sarwey (Hrsg.): Der obergermanisch-raetische Limes des Römerreiches. Abt. A, Band 7, Strecke 14, 1932).

Comagena/Tulln (Austria)

Comagena (Tulln) is located in Lower Austria (Austria) and has direct access to the Danube and the tributary rivers Small Tulln and Big Tulln. The archaeological sites are easily accessible, as they are located in the city centre within walking distance.

In Tulln a wood-earth camp from the 1st century CE was discovered. This was expanded into a stone fort at the beginning of the following century and underwent another phase of reconstruction around the middle of the 4th to 5th century CE due to a fire event. The reconstructions have been carried out by the *ala I Commagenorum*, which was stationed here until the 3rd century CE and the Dux Ursicinus. The oldest settlement features of Tulln date to the 1st century CE, but the activities stopped about 250 years later. Cemeteries are also known, which date from 1st to 5th century CE. From Late Antiquity onwards Comagena/Tulln became the naval base of the Danube fleet *classis (Co)maginensis* and location of an equestrian unit (*equites promoti Comagenis*). In the 5th century CE an occupation by federates (*foederati*) is documented. Here, archaeological finds, such as pottery, and the Vita Sancti Severini (511), which describes that the gates of the Oppidum Comagenis were guarded by barbarian federates when Severin arrived in 456, coincide. Afterwards a civilian settlement expanded in the camp area.

Research assumes a resettlement during Charlemagne's War of the Avars towards the end of the 8th century, in this temporal context also the ancient place name reappears. Only grave finds from the 10th century are archaeologically provable.

The archaeological remains like a Late Antique horseshoe tower (so-called „Salzturm“), a fan tower and the *porta principalis dextra* (right fort gate) are located in today's city centre closely to each other. These remains are preserved by

protective structures, like the *porta principalis dextra* and the fan tower, or embedded in the cityscape like the horseshoe tower (“Salzturm”). The east, south and west front of the stone fort is partially preserved. The structures can be viewed only from the outside.

The Roman Museum of Tulln as well as the Virtulleum App provide information about the historical development of the city Tulln and lead you interactively through its history. Guided tours of the archaeological sites can be booked on request at the museum.

Especially in summer the museum organises small Roman festivals and usually opens its doors in the framework of the annual nationwide cultural event the „Long Night of Museums“ (Lange Nacht der Museen) and the local „Museum Spring Lower Austria“ (Museumsfrühling Niederösterreich). But due to the current COVID-19 situation there are no events planned during the year 2021.

The city of Tulln is easily accessible by car, bus and train as well as by ship or bicycle routes along the Danube. Parking spots and electric charging stations for electrical vehicles are available in the city. There is also a possibility to browse in the souvenir shops of the museum or tourist information centre. For the culinary supply, there are various restaurants and cafés in the city.



Photo above left:

Reconstruction of the fort Comagena/Tulln (Photo by 7reasons Medien GmbH)

Photo above middle:

Horseshoe tower (“Salzturm”) (Photo left by Stadtgemeinde Tulln, photo right by Manfred Schobert)

Photo above right:

Virtulleum Tulln (Photo by Markus Bacher)

Photo below:

Protective structure of the fan tower (Photo by Stadtgemeinde Tulln)

Roman Military Camp in Iža (Slovakia)

Near the village of Iža, on the left bank of the River Danube, around 4 km from its confluence with the River Váh, lie the remains of a Roman military camp. As an outpost of Brigetio, it was a part of the fortifications chain protecting the Northern border of the Pannonia Province.

The region grew in significance in the period of the Marcomannic Wars (166 – 180 CE), when the first Roman camp was built there. It had an area of more than 3 hectares and was fortified with a double ditch and an earth-and-timber rampart. Excavations in its inner perimeter yielded remains of soldier barracks built of unfired bricks. The task of the local garrison, consisting probably of horse archery units, was to keep the Germanic Quadi out of the defence perimeter of Brigetio. However, the camp was obviously destroyed during an unexpected Germanic raid in 179 CE. In the surrounding area, outlines of ten Roman marching camps from the era of the Marcomannic Wars were detected by aerial survey. These were probably used by various Roman army units during counterattacks against the Quadi.

After the Marcomannic Wars, a square-layout Roman castellum protected by stone ramparts, towers and a double ditch was built on the site of the destroyed Iža camp. Inside the camp there were blocks of soldier barracks, stables and stores. The headquarters were located at the Western gate, while a bath house was built in the south-east corner. The camp was built by troopers of *legio I Adiutrix*, based in Brigetio, with the material ferried across the Danube. Its garrison (an unidentified unit, probably a cavalry troop) had a task of defending the local Roman border sections against enemy raids. Throughout its existence, the supplies for the castellum were ferried by boats from the other bank of the Danube. In around mid-3rd century CE the castellum suffered damage during battles with the Quadi, but was repaired. Major rebuilding of the place was carried out in the 4th century CE, during the reign of the Constantine dynasty and Emperor Valentinian I (364 – 375 CE), when its defences were upgraded with bastions built at the Northern gate and in three corners of the rampart, and additional defensive ditches were excavated. In the late 4th century CE the castellum was destroyed, probably in battle. Its ruins were then for some time inhabited by a mixed population of the Quadi and new settlers to the region – perhaps the Goths or the Alani. After they left in the first half of the 5th century CE, the place remained abandoned.

As there is no mention of the Iža fort in the surviving Roman writings, its Roman name is unknown. Up till recently, the place was mistakenly identified as Kelemantia with regard to geographical references in the works of Claudius Ptolemy, related to Brigetio. However, current research shows that the local castellum had not existed during the lifetime of the author yet.

By the 18th century, as indicated by the written accounts of the time, the Roman masonry remains had already been totally obliterated. The outline of the castellum is now just slightly visible and is accentuated in the flat terrain by a portion of raised ground, locally known as “Maiden Castle” (or “Leányvár”, in the Hungarian language). The site has been conserved as an open-air in-situ exhibition and is freely accessible to the public.

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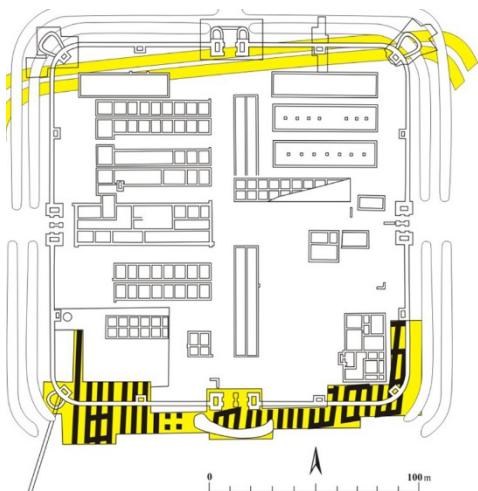


Photo left: Ground plan of the Roman fort with marked fragments of the unearthed earth-and-timber camp (Photo by AÚ.SAV.Nitra)

Photo middle: Localisation of Roman temporary camps in the neighbourhood of the Roman fort in Iža (Photo by AÚ.SAV.Nitra)

Photo right: Glass bottle with relief decoration (Photo by AÚ.SAV.Nitra)

The Roman Military Fort of Százhalombatta/Matrica (Hungary)

The city of Százhalombatta is located on the Western bank of river Danube, approximately 38 km south of Budapest in Pest county, Hungary. It is one of the most important industrial centres of the country, providing seat to an oil refinery of international importance and a power station. However, the city has a long history with a wide range of valuable archaeological fields.

The name of this town in Hungarian literally means "One hundred tumuli" referring to the tumulus field at the edge of the town. This feature carries back the visitors to the earliest era of the city as the plateau stretching over the River Danube was inhabited since the Bronze Age. In the 7th-6th centuries BCE it was the Eastern branch of the Hallstatt culture that appeared in the region. Significant noblemen are buried in the tumulus graveyard. The 3.5-hectare territory presently functions as an Archaeological Park as a part of the Matrica Museum. A 2,700-year-old tumulus was excavated in this prehistoric open-air museum, and reconstructed and opened for the visitors. The Archaeological Park of Százhalombatta was the first interactive display site presenting prehistoric monuments in Hungary established with a two-fold purpose. First, to offer visitors a personal experience of prehistoric life offering family days, craft activities and workshops. Second, 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.

The following significant era in the life of the territory is connected to the Romans. The area of Százhalombatta was occupied by the Romans later compared to other territories of Pannonia Province. The need for a military camp emerged after Emperor Traian's (98–117 CE) conquest in Dacia, and after several attacks of the Sarmatians around 106 CE. It became the 3rd auxiliary castellum south of Aquincum with a vicus, cemetery and bath in its environment, along the ripa. The name – Matrica – is originated from the previous, Celtic inhabitants – as the city museum's name perpetuates. There are several sources that mention the territory: the Itinerarum Antonini, and the Notitia Dignitatum. Two archaeological finds – a roof tile with the stamp of Matri(ca) and an altar from the 3rd century (with the inscription: *Pro salute civeromanum (!) territ(orii) Matricensium*) provide proof for the name of the settlement. During the Macromannian-Sarmatian wars, the fort was destroyed around 178 CE, afterwards it was rebuilt of in stone. During the time of Emperor Caracalla (211–217 CE) semicircular corner turrets were added. After the Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin during the 9th Century CE the area of the camp and the civil settlement (military vicus) became the territory of the mediaeval village called Báté – inside the remains of the roman walls, a stone church was built. In 1809 – during the Napoleonic wars – a bridge-head, gun-emplacements and longitudinal ramparts were erected within the area of the camp. It is clearly visible even today.

Since the end of the 19th century, several excavations focused on the Roman history of Százhalombatta. Therefore, the military camp was partially unearthed, and several excavations were conducted in the vicus as well. The remnants of the Roman bath are still visible; other parts are covered with earth. The objects from the excavations are displayed in the "Matrica" Museum.

The area and wider environment of the Matrica castrum and vicus as the nominated Hungarian pilot site of the Living Danube Limes project will also be the location and subject of the Design Course of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics - Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation, consequently, the university students are important target groups of this part of the project. Therefore, on 13 February 2021, the team of BME organised a pilot site visit on which occasion lecturers and students of the university both participated to a tour on the site and met experts of architecture and archaeology. During the course, the students will develop plans for the rehabilitation of the territory.

The research of Ludwig Boltzmann Institute is highly awaited. The relevant questions for the research team are: the survey of the fort – especially the Northern, central and Eastern side where buildings are expected; the exact extent of the urban structures and the possible buildings of the vicus; the correlation of the visible traces of the Roman bath to the urban structure of the vicus and fort, and the exact location and direction of the limes / ripa.



Photo left: The banks of the River Danube near the Roman Bath (Photo by Gergő Máté Kovács, 2020)

Photo right: The remnants of the Roman bath near the Matrica military camp (Photo: Martin Takács, 2021)

Ad Labores/Kopačevo (Croatia)

Kopačevo is a village in the Croatian part of the Baranja region. It is right across the Drava river, just 10 kilometres away from Osijek. Kopačevo is a small village on an elevated plateau, overlooking the marshlands of Kopački rit, which surrounds it from three sides. When we try to imagine how the village looked like along with its surroundings we have to take into consideration a giant building project of a levies system. It stretches from the Osijek suburb of Podravlje all the ways to Zmajevac. The system was built to protect the Baranja villages and fields from the seasonal flooding of the marshlands. The construction was started during the reign of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and further developed by Yugoslavia in the 1960es. This building project undoubtedly destroyed some of the archaeological remains of this region but more than this it drastically changed the historic landscape. We can assume that Kopačevo, due to its location, was a hospitable place to live from prehistory to this day. Finds from the Bronze Age show that already in prehistoric times people have lived in this area. A grave with South Pannonian encrusted pottery as well as a bronze bracelet was found in the village. Next evidence of people living in the area of what is today a village of Kopačevo date from Antiquity when it was part of Danube Limes Region. Several finds ranging from Roman coins to a stone altar dedicated to god Jupiter were found in Kopačevo. We know from a map from 1798 that a Roman fort with five towers was still partly visible when the map was made by Hungarian geographer and mapmaker S.V. Pavia. In 1978 an excavation, led by Mirko Bulat, close to the location of the aforementioned fort unearthed remains of Roman sewer systems. A few years later, close to the walls of the fort, a necropolis dating to Late Antiquity was found and excavated. Several developments that led to excavations showed that today's village is partly built on top of its Roman counterpart which bore the name *Ad Labores*. In the Middle Ages Kopačevo is first mentioned by King Andrew (András) II of Hungary on the Golden Bull of 1222, giving lands in the village to one of the local lords. From this period, several finds have been retrieved near today's village graveyard.

In the period of Antiquity the village of Kopačevo bore the name *Ad Labores*. Its close proximity to one of the largest colonies in roman *Pannonia*, *Colonia Aelia Mursa* (Osijek) provides a clue to the possible nature of the Roman site. *Ad Labores* was a Roman military fort, overlooking the vast marshland to the east towards the Danube and protecting *Mursa* from the northeast.

Today Kopačevo is most famous for the beautiful nature park Kopački rit. Kopačevo serves as a gateway to the sprawling marshlands characteristic of the Danube and Drava confluence. It is one of the largest preserved intact wetlands in Europe. The proximity of the village to Osijek provides great and easy access for tourists arriving by automobile, bus or bicycle. Croatian Baranja region became one of the first Croatian centres for cycle tourism with several of the international bike trails going through this small village and Kopački rit nature park.



PP Kopački rit Visitors center (Photo by Nature Park Kopački 2021)

Lederata/Ram (Serbia)

The Roman site *Lederata* is located in Eastern Serbia, in the area of the municipality Veliko Gradište, about 700 m east of the present-day village Ram and the medieval fortress with the same name. The Roman fortification is situated on the flat hillside above the right bank of the Danube. The site recognized as Roman *Lederata* is displayed on the *Tabula Peutingeriana* between *Viminacium* and *Pincum*, about ten Roman miles (approx. 15 km) downstream of *Viminacium*. The *Notitia Dignitatum* mentioned this fort as *Laedenata*, the base of the *cuneus equitum sagittariorum* and *praefectus militum Vincensium*. In Procopius' text on the restoration of the Danube Limes (Procopii, *De Aedificiis*, IV, 5) it was mentioned as *Literata* (λίπερατά).

The first fort at *Lederata* was built in the 1st century CE, in the initial phase of the Roman occupation of the Danube Region and the establishment of the Limes. This fort probably functioned as a military base and bridgehead during the preparation for Trajan's war with the Dacians. It is believed that a pontoon bridge was placed at this site, where Trajan crossed the Danube with his army in the First Dacian War in 101 CE; this event is illustrated on Traian's column in Rome. About the same time a fort called *Translederata* was erected on the opposite side, the left bank of the Danube, on the river island Sapaja. Both fortifications were apparently planned to function as a bridgehead, to protect the crossing of the Danube into Dacia and to control the river traffic.

The earliest fortification belongs to the type of larger axillary forts, measuring 200 x 150 m. This fortification had a rectangular plan with rounded corners, with inner towers at the corners and on ramparts, as well as at the gates. This form of the fort is characteristic of the Limes architecture of the 1st and early 2nd centuries. The thickness of the rampart walls was 2.0-2.5 m, and they were made of crushed stone bound with lime mortar. Several buildings within the camp were also explored, the most notable being the *praetorium*. Brick stamps show the presence of the auxiliary units that participated in Trajan's Dacian Wars, *cohors I Cretum* and *cohors II Hispanorum*, *ala II Pannoniorum*, and in addition to them the *legio VII Claudia*. The detachment of the *legio VII Claudia* that probably built the fort was stationed here until the beginning of the 3rd century. In the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries the fort was partially abandoned, but it was restored and reduced in the time of Diocletian's military reforms and restorations. In the North-eastern, most prominent part of the older fort, a smaller *quadriburgium*, measuring 50 x 50 m, was erected. This fortification had a rectangular base and exterior rectangular corner towers. In Late Antiquity units of the *cuneus equitum sagittariorum* and the *milites Vincentienses* were stationed here. *Lederata* was destroyed during the Hun attack in 441 CE. During the reign of Emperor Justinian, the whole fortification was rebuilt and new massive ramparts in the *opus mixtum* technique were erected on the grounds of the larger Trajan's fort. The early Byzantine fortification also had a rectangular plan, but exterior circular corner towers and semi-circular ones along the ramparts. It was bordered by a ditch and double embankment, and

another rampart was erected on the south side. This triple ditch system represents a rare military structure along the Roman Limes.

Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the fort, chance finds and the configuration of the terrain suggest that civilian settlement was located on the south and west side of the fort; the necropolis was located west of it.

The site is protected by National Monument Protection Law, and marked as a cultural property of exceptional importance (AS 102). It is included in the municipality plan for cultural tourism and development with the Silver Lake Resort and Ram fortress (Turkish fortress). Although protected by law, the site was exposed to systematic looting for years, but since 2015 it is on the UNESCO Tentative List, as a part of *Frontiers of the Roman Empire* cluster. From this point on the interest of the municipality and the local community for this site increased, so now there are plans for a 24/7 protection system or surveillance. Further development and tourist visits are planned on the site, in order to establish a permanent flow of people, as well as promote and protect the Roman heritage.



Photo left: Corner tower of inner, Late Antique fortlet (Photo by Nemanja Mrđić)

Photo right: North-western corner tower of the early Byzantine fortification (Photo by Nemanja Mrđić)

Bonia/Vidin – Roman Military Camp and Fortress on the Danube Road (Bulgaria)

The ancient Bononia is located near the Danube bank and belongs to the cities and fortifications of the Roman Danube Limes. It is believed that the name originates from the Latin word “bonus”, which means “good”. Although known by the Roman historical sources, Bononia has not been truly explored so far. By recent construction works in the living area “Kaleto” in Vidin parts of well-protected walls have been revealed. After the archaeological research, it was found that they belong to the Western gate of the fortress which spreads on an area of 20 hectares under the present city.

The fortress dates to the 1st century CE, when the First Cisapade Cohort, a horse cohort, was stationed here as part of the elite Roman soldiers. Bononia is considered to have reached its largest expansion in association with the withdrawal of the Roman colonizers from the province of Coastal Dacia – after 272 CE, under Emperor Aurelian. In this way by the end of 3rd – beginning of 4th century Bononia was already a significant settlement with a solid fortification system. In the 5th and 6th centuries, Bononia experienced devastating invasions of Huns and Avars, but was restored (unlike Ratiaria and Dorticum) and continued to exist in the Middle Ages, when the Bulgarians built the Vidin fortress. In the 11th and 12th centuries, Bononia was again part of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium). The excavations gave clear information about this restoration of the fortress by the Vasilevs of Constantinople. During the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, here is the centre of the Vidin Kingdom, ruled by Tsar Ivan Sratsimir (end of 14th century).

The excavated cultural layers are over 6 m deep and at some places even more than 7 m. Except for Roman time remains and finds from Late Antiquity, in the research of the Western gate of Bononia archaeologists came across layers from Early Middle Ages: 7th-10th century, from the era of the Byzantine rule and the Second Bulgarian Kingdom: 11th-14th century, and especially large remains from the Ottoman period and the Renaissance: 15th-19th centuries.

According to the chief archaeologist Assoc. Prof. Zdravko Dimitrov, Bononia has the most representative and most powerful defensive structures along the Lower Danube Limes. Only here the wall is 4 m wide, and the fortress towers are decagonal with a diameter of 25-30 m.

The finds are also impressive. Among all stands the bronze head of Emperor Nero, discovered by J. Atanasova in rescue excavations in the 1960s. More than 1000 finds have already been discovered during the new excavations, many of them coins, household items, ceramic vessels, terra sigillata, architectural decorations from buildings, seals and other monuments with epigraphic content, and many others.

Archaeological remains are expected to be all over the underground of the city of Vidin. Under today's "Baba Vida" (currently the only fully preserved fortress in Bulgaria) is assumed to be the North-western tower of Bononia. In the area of the famous Vidin Synagogue, since geophysical surveying has shown traces of ancient ruins there as well, is where the centre of the Roman Military Camp is presumed to be. Being so deep in the ground has preserved the remains from bad weather conditions and treasure hunters. The research and excavations will continue in the next 2-3 years, supported by the Ministry of Culture and Vidin Municipality. The main goal is to organize and present an archaeological park that will be the main attraction for future visitors. The Mayor of Vidin has vowed to change the urban plan of the city, so it can allow the exhibition of the newly found structures.

Restoration and conservation of the ruins should be obtained, surrounding the site with fence and signs, parts of the wall to be covered with geotextile for preservation during winter, and so on.

The archaeological sites of Bononia and Ratiaria are part of the joint nomination of the Danube Roman Limes as a UNESCO World Heritage. Work is underway to prepare the application documents.



Photo above left: Baba Vida Fortress North-western part of Bononia fortress walls are expected to be below it (Photo by: NTC Bulgarian Guide)

Photo above middle: Bononia Western Gate Remains in the Kaleto Neighborhood Covered with Geotextile_1 (Photo by: NTC Bulgarian Guide)

Photo above right: Bononia Western Gate Remains in the Kaleto Neighborhood Covered with Geotextile_3 (Photo by: NTC Bulgarian Guide)

Photo below: Baba-Vida-Fortress-Panoramic-View (Photo by: NTC Bulgarian Guide)

Sacidava Fortress (Romania)

In order to reach Sacidava, the Romanian pilot site selected within the Living Danube Limes project, one must reach either Rasova or Aliman (Constanta County), break on a local rural road next to Dunareni for about 2 km and then drive or hike for another 5 km on an earth path to the fortress.

Its history and name reflect the existence of a local (Dacian or Getae) settlement either on its location or in proximity, before the Roman invasion. As it is, nowadays, the Roman Castrum Sacidava can be found in Rasova, close to the location

of an ancient Dacian fortress, with the same name, historically known as the capital of the Thracian-Getae-Dacian tribe of the *sacii*, led by the Dacian King Dapyx.

Its history spans at least 5 centuries and the exact location of the Roman Castrum became possible by corroborating data from ancient sources (e.g. *Tabula Peutingeriana*, which called it Sagadava, or Procopius' works which referred to it as Skedeba) and epigraphic documents (a *milliarium* recorded during the reign of the Roman Emperor Decius).

The Roman influence began in the early 100s CE, when the Emperor Traian stationed the IV Cohort *Gallorum* at the Roman Castrum of Sacidava and continued with Hadrian's rule, when the fortress welcomed the *I Cilicum sagittariorum milliaria* Cohort. Other famous Roman armies that oversaw the area were the *Legio V Macedonica* and the *Legio XI Claudia*.

Sacidava was identified by the Romanian archaeologist Vasile Parvan at the beginning of the 19th century. The archaeological digs for the remains of the fortress were carried out from 1969 until 1980, showing an outline of what used to be the Sacidava Roman Castrum.



Sacidava Fortress (Photo by: Adrian Radulescu, INCDT)

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WP T2

Progress on Museum Clusters and Visitor Centres in the Danube Limes Region

The museum and visitor site clusters will be the basis for the transnational network of living-history on heritage sites, which will develop the Danube Limes as a holistic archaeological site, representing not only the Roman cultural heritage, but also the cultural and natural characteristics of today's inhabitants and culture of the Danube Region. The museum and visitor centre cluster will be a key factor to ensure the durability of the project's outputs.

The approach to identification and establishment of the museum structure in the Danube Limes Region includes a concept outline, preparation of datasheets, and establishment of data catalogue. For this purpose, a thorough research of the museums and sites related to the Danube Roman Limes has been conducted by the Living Danube Limes project partners. The methodology was applied by datasheets based on publicly available information. The analysed categories include museums, tourist centres, visitor centres, and other facilities. More than one third of all analysed sites are based in Austria (36 out of 95). The geographic distribution is presented in the map below. In Austria are also 22 of the 33 indicated museum networks and quality labels. The majority of the museums/sites are with local or regional importance (86%) and have archaeological and/or historical focus (74%). The ownership is mainly on municipality level (61%). Very few of the museums/sites (less than 20%) provide high level of tourists' integration (mobile app, quests, gamification, AR/VR, etc.).

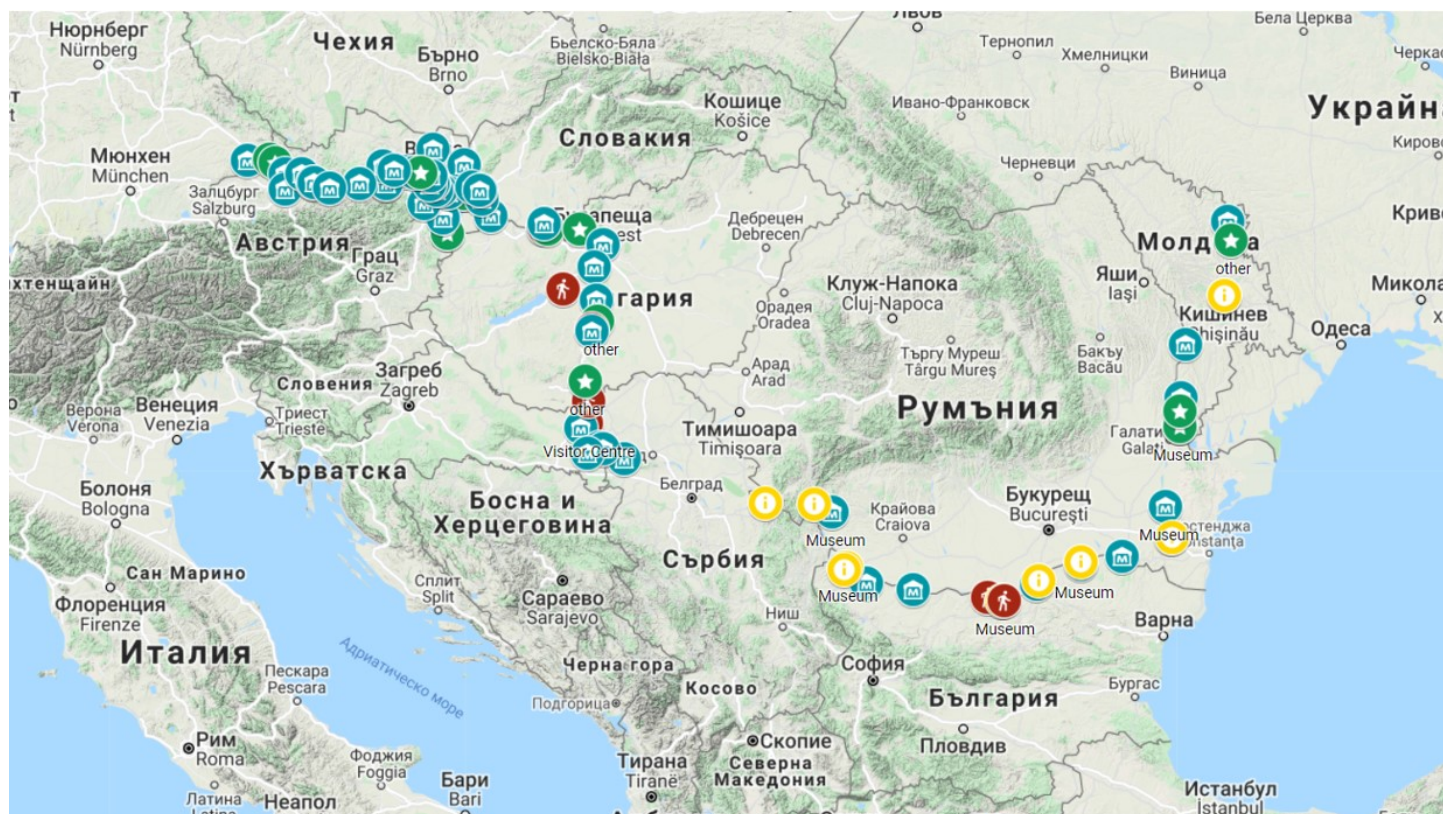
Among the challenges for the museum clusters are the vast disproportions (size, number of exhibits, economic strength, visitors' attendance, etc.); level of innovation; geographical distance; language barrier; different motivational factors; lack of substantiality, etc.

As next steps for creating the Living Danube Limes Museum Cluster we are planning to identify the potential participants at this Living Danube Limes Museum Cluster; to conduct a survey on their needs and expectations; to elaborate an inclusion strategy; to draft a memorandum of understanding; to propose a branding and communication strategy for the Living Danube Limes Museum Cluster; and to adopt and implement the memorandum of understanding and communication strategy.

During the workshop "Site Strengthening through Living History and Virtual Reality Incentives" (on which see below), held in the period 22-26 March 2021, within a dedicated syndicate group, the datasheet was subject to active discussion and further analysis. In addition, there were presentations and discussions on the following topics:

- Museum networks and quality labels;
- Gamification approach in tourism;
- Playing role games

The participants came up with original ideas and proposals on the successful establishment of the Danube Limes Museum Cluster. Such key activities could be the ability of the Cluster to meet both the needs and expectations of museum and visitor centres, as well as of the audiences/visitors; to engage the local communities, incl. craftsmen, farmers, re-enactment groups, etc.; to establish a volunteering network; to tell the right story on the Danube Limes; to propose inclusive and awarding games; to integrate new technologies and innovations with the traditional exhibitions in order to propose an integrated and interactive visitor's experience.

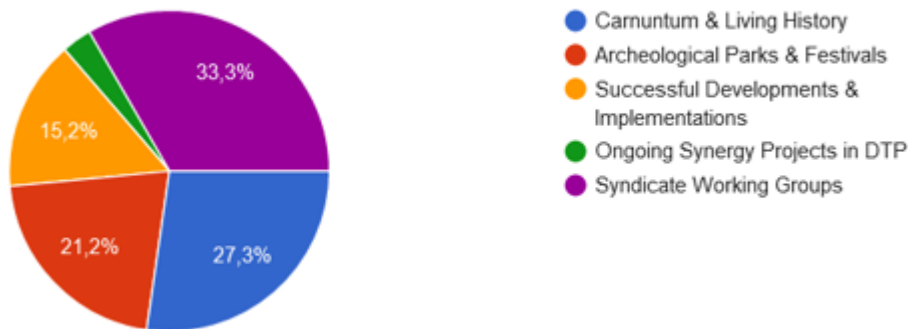


Datasheet Danube location of museums, tourist centres, visitor centres, and others on Google Maps

Good Practice Workshop Living History and Virtual Reality

From 22 - 26 March 2021 a good practice workshop on site strengthening through living history and virtual reality incentives took place online. The workshop was meant to bring together international experts and museum specialists from the whole Danube Region and beyond in the Roman City Carnuntum in Austria, but had to be held online due to the

COVID-19 travel restrictions. The restrictions however did not stand in the way of a fruitful and informative workshop, which resulted in a number of brilliant ideas that are going to be part of the Living Danube Limes project achievements. A video message from the general manager and the scientific director of Carnuntum, both associated strategic partners of our project, kicked off the workshop. It included a behind the scenes tour in the archaeological depot and visits to the museum and the Roman City Carnuntum. The first day of the workshop was dedicated to the story and history of Carnuntum and the broad topic of living history and re-enactment, including challenges and possibilities both hold. Day two focused on site strengthening through Roman festivals, with valuable inputs from our colleagues from the Hadrian's Wall in Great Britain as well as a number of former and ongoing EU projects dealing with archaeology and its presentation. Day three was dedicated to interpretation of archaeological finds and historical knowledge and transfer to museums and visitors. A special focus on the possibility of engaging broad audiences with reconstructed Roman ships was added with a paper on the reconstructed Zwammerdamm ships in the Netherlands and their value for entrepreneurship and tourism on local, regional and (inter)national levels. After three immensely interesting days of theoretical input the participants of the workshop started to develop their very own ideas for our project in three syndicate working groups on communication and museum clusters, living history, virtual reality and interpretation as well as COVID-19 challenges and possibilities. 92 participants from literally all around the globe (Japan to Great Britain) were thrilled to directly contribute to the achievements of Living Danube Limes, a feedback that clearly shows in the questionnaire following the workshop.



Follow us Online for the Upcoming Information on our Connecting Cruise 2022

In 2022, the big dream of the Living Danube Limes project consortium will become reality – a cruise down the Danube with our reconstructed 4th century lusoria, the Danuvina Alacris. During our Partner Meeting this May we have started to plan the cruise which connects all countries bordering directly on the Danube, all our Living Danube Limes pilot sites and which will hold a bunch of synergies with sister projects along the Danube. For further details on the cruise, its organisation, technical details and possibilities to join follow us online on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/LivingDanubeLimes/>



For the moment, we are proud to share the shield design chosen for our project and the Danuvina Alacris. It was especially designed for our project following a number of Late Antique finds. The colour scheme is yet to be finalised, but Victoria as goddess of victory and success seems an absolutely fitting choice for an endeavour physically linking the whole Danube Region and promoting our shared Roman heritage.



Shield Design by Jannis Kernert, 2020

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WPI

Roman Ships, Shipbuilding, the Mainz Wrecks as Basis for the Reconstruction of the Living Danube Limes Iusoria

The Romans absorbed and carried on the shipbuilding traditions of the Mediterranean. With the expansion of the Roman Empire, local traditions of the Mediterranean were adopted, but also those of Mesopotamia and the regions north of the Alps. A distinction must be made between these and the construction methods documented in the areas east of the Rhine, for example at the Danish Nydam Moor. Here, the clinker construction method is found, which will later be successful in the Viking boats. In contrast, the Mediterranean construction method is kraveel. Here, the outer skin is smooth and the planks are butt-jointed.

We focus now on two of the boat types that are best preserved in the region north of the Alps, in Oberstimm (near Manching) and in Mainz. The older version (Oberstimm) clearly belongs to the Mediterranean building tradition. The find from Oberstimm on an old tributary of the Danube (the Breitlach) belongs, dendrochronologically dated, to a period around 100 CE. The boats were abandoned for an unknown reason and used to fortify the fort mole.

Important for our context is the construction according to the Mediterranean tongue and groove method. Based on the finding from Oberstimm, Wrack II, which is currently on display in the Celtic-Roman Museum Manching, a Roman boat was already reconstructed in 2017/8 (FAN). Grooves were cut out every 30 cm and oak springs inserted. They are locked in place by oak pins driven into the sides, about 6 cm long. The planking was done with pine and the robust side bracing (ribs) and longitudinal stiffening was done with oak.

The archaeological evidence for the later type of boat, which is also the best preserved in Germany, is found in Mainz. During the laying of the foundation stone for a sales building near the banks of the Rhine, several boat wrecks came to light in the 1980s, some of which, especially Wrecks I and V can be assigned to the Late Antique boat type "lusoria". The excavation was led by Olav Höckmann, who also made the first interpretations regarding an assumed original length. Ronald Bockius then undertook a revision and ultimately the most reliable and recent publication for all the finds from Mainz. These ships were part of a Celtic-Roman building tradition. In contrast to the ship types of the older Roman period (the first and second centuries) in Oberstimm, which are clearly indebted to the Mediterranean building tradition. The Late Antique finds belong to a local building tradition.

The ships in the local building tradition used the hardest wood of the region, oak. Oak itself does not swim so well, but it is robust and the planks also bend well thanks to the oak and because they are cut relatively thin (2.5 cm). The shape of the flat bottom is much chunkier compared to the shape of the Oberstimm boat, which was built in the Mediterranean tradition. However, the robustness is also due to the fact that the planks and frames were all carpentered with iron nails, albeit butt-jointed, so the outer hull was smooth. This made the boat more than twice as heavy at almost similar length as its older counterpart of the Oberstimm design, which was assembled with pine planks, oak in the core parts (keel and frames) and with wooden nails (except for bow and stern). All these boats had realised the Mediterranean type of smooth outer hull under direct or indirect influence, while boats of the Germanic building tradition practised the clinker construction method, like the Viking boats later on – this is proven by the ship finds from Nydam Moor in Denmark, all of which had been made with oak, with nails, but not with smooth outer hull.

In contrast to the Roman counterparts, we do not have any fully preserved wrecks available in the case of the lusoriae from Mainz. While wreck V was almost completely preserved at the time of the discovery and before the lifting, parts of this find were lost up to 8 m from the bow. In the reconstruction, we now have to consider two wrecks (I and V), each preserved to 8 m and thus almost complete together, from the stern (wreck I) and from the bow (wreck V). Nevertheless, this is a methodological problem, because even if they are contemporary and similar in construction, they are two different ships. Thus, because of these uncertainties, there has also been a heated discussion regarding the total length of the boats, which has to be estimated.

While Höckmann, after various attempts, finally arrived at a length of 21.5 m (initially he had also arrived at a length of about 18 m), Bockius settled on a length of the two wrecks of no more than 18 m.

The different reconstructions have also led to different replicas. The first replica of Regensburg, under the constructional direction of Matthias Helterhoff and still under the supervision of Olav Höckmann, was 21.5 m long. The replica in the Mainz Museum of Ancient Seafaring was built according to the same plan. The two other replicas, the one in Gernersheim, again under the supervision of the boat builder Matthias Helterhoff, and the one in Xanten, which is not yet finished, under the supervision of the boat builder Kees Sars were made according to the reconstructive line drawings by Bockius.

While the longer version of almost 22 m poses ship-geometrical problems, the line drawings from Bockius (2006) seem to be closer to reality. It must be taken into account that the lines plan there corresponds to the finds. The two thousand years of storage of the relics below the sediments have had an impact on the stock. Some ribs are dented. With this shape, there would have been a large bend in the chine.

Therefore, we agreed with boat builder Andreas Gronau and Christian Garleff and the editor of the lusoria boats of Mainz Ronald Bockius to aim for the ideal-typical "middle" between a lines plan that was drawn according to modern criteria and guaranteed the hydrostatic ideal position in the water, and the found situation, in which individual frames were pushed down. The result is already basis of this completely new reconstruction. This process has already begun with the building of the templates and had previously been prepared by the felling of the oaks (and spruces).

As both a border river and part of the Roman Empire, the Danube has been an important line of communication north of the Alps since the last two decades of the first century BCE. It connected all provinces and played an important role in supplying the burgi, forts and legionary camps along this route, as well as the civilian settlements that established themselves at these locations. While civilian ships and transporters ensured trade and supplies, military patrol boats of the Oberstimm type for the early and middle Imperial period and the lusoria ships in Late Antiquity provided guard

services or ensured troop transports *en masse*. In the case of military offensives, larger ships (as in the Dacian campaigns of Domitian and Trajan) also sailed the Danube. While downstream journeys could be made quickly (at up to 100 km per day in exceptional cases), upstream a combination of propulsion methods had to be chosen. In the Danube delta, it was possible to profit from the seasonal easterly winds, to cruise further west on the wide, strongly meandering, slow-flowing river against the wind or to tow when the rowers were exhausted.

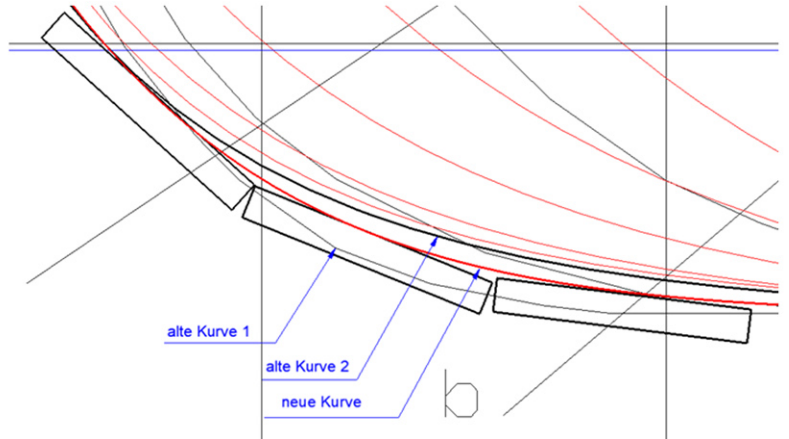


Photo left: Wreck V, view to the bow (Photo by Boris Dreyer)

Graphic right: The final outline of the waterline plan from December 2020 (= neue Kurve / new curve) represents a compromise between the calculable ideal line (= alte Kurve 2 / old curve 2) and the compressed findings (= alte Kurve 1 / old curve 1 according to Bockius 2006) (Graphic by Christian Garleff)

State of Progress Shipbuilding in WPI

In Schlungenhof at the Altmühlsee, the oak trunks and the oak krummholz transported there before Christmas were sawn to size in mid-January. A team of students, boat builders, professional sawyers and volunteers sawed the oak logs according to the specifications. Exemplary Roman frame saws were also used. However, after initial difficulties, most of the timber was sawn with the modern mobile sawmill, which was specially brought from Bremen and can saw excess lengths (up to approx. 19.30 m). These sawn laths were well layered and secured so that they could dry.

The construction of the hall at the Altmühlsee in which the *Danuvina Alacris* will be built and which will later be home to the boat was repeatedly delayed because of COVID-19. In spring 2021, however, great progress was made, such as the application of the floor slab. We look forward to gather speed in the upcoming warmer season in which we expect less COVID-19 related disturbance at our shipbuilding site.



Photo left: This is how wood was sawn to frames in the Roman way (Photo by Gesa Prophet).

Photo middle: Construction of the boat hall (Photo by Boris Dreyer).

Photo right: The mobile sawmill from Bremen was able to saw excess lengths of up to 19.30 m, which was necessary due to the continuous planks of the boat (Photo by Margit Schedel).

REPORT ON LIVING DANUBE LIMES ACTIVITIES

Presenting Living Danube Limes at External Events

The bulk of external events project members participated in and presented Living Danube Limes as project and the work in progress took place online.

From 27 February - 5 March 2021 the annual Hadrian's Wall Networking Day took place in an online and slightly altered format – it lasted for more than a week and featured a series of lectures and “chance to chat” sessions on the Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project (WallCAP), including volunteering during a pandemic, information about recent excavation and repair work on the Hadrian's Wall, World Heritage Site Management in the UK and insights into the collaboration initiative between Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall of China. Hadrian's Wall, which as its name from the Roman Emperor Hadrian ordering it, built in the north of the Roman province of Britannia in the 2nd century CE, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as is its twin even farther north, the Antonine Wall. It was a great pleasure for Danube University Krems to present the Living Danube Limes project with its aims and goals at the 2021 Hadrian's Networking Days and we are looking forward to further possibilities of cooperation, especially in light of the upcoming 1900 year anniversary of Hadrian's Wall in 2022.

For further information about the magnificent plans for 2022 on the Wall visit our British colleagues online:
<https://hadrianswallcountry.co.uk/hadrianswall1900>



The paper presenting Living Danube Limes was entitled “The EU Living Danube Limes Project” and can be also watched online:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG2VeGCeBvI>



In March, our project partners Danube University Krems and Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen Nuremberg presented the ongoing reconstruction of the 4th century lusoria-type ship at the 2021 EAC12 - the Experimental Archaeology Conference World Tour, which focused on 80 experiments from all around the globe, from Australia to Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America. Parallel to that World Tour conference the MAMUZ museum in Asparn an der Zaya in Austria started a touring exhibition that will take a number of archaeological experiments as videos and accompanying replicas around the world during the next years. We contributed a video to both the conference and the exhibition and some of the replica tools needed for the construction of the *Danuvina Alacris* are currently on display at the MAMUZ.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BJHc9EqiUQ>



Connecting Archaeology and Academic Research with Re-living the Roman Past in Carnuntum

The Roman military camps and following them the city of Carnuntum was founded in the first century CE. The settlement flourished and became the capital of the Roman province Pannonia Superior, at that time having about 50,000 inhabitants. In Roman times, Carnuntum bordered directly on the River Danube and the famous Amber Road, leading from the Baltic Sea to the Adria, crossed the Danube in the area of Carnuntum, which thus lay at important crossroads from north to south and east to west. In 433 CE, Carnuntum and other important cities in the Northern provinces were handed over to the Huns; following that and making a big step ahead time wise, Carnuntum never reached its Roman glory again and most of the area was not built over in the following centuries. This makes Carnuntum one of the best-researched Roman spots north of the Alps. The systematic excavation that started in the 19th century continues until today – although the methods have changed a lot. Our project partner the LBI ArchPro for example did the geoprospections bringing to light the marvellous structures of the Roman Carnuntum still below ground today.

Carnuntum is also one of the places where archaeological research, conservation, presentation of original finds in the museum Carnuntinum and re-living Roman history meet. In the archaeological park Carnuntum, associated strategic partner of Living Danube Limes, the visitors are able to literally walk into Roman history when visiting the Roman buildings erected on spot; they can book a time travel tour where a “Roman” guide invites them to his or her hometown Carnuntum and shows them the hotspots and relates the latest gossip from the 4th century CE (the period best preserved in Carnuntum and thus being the basis for the Roman houses rebuilt). During certain times in the year visitors can even go to see gladiatorial fights in one of Carnuntum’s amphitheatres or visit living historians during one of the big Roman festivals on site and thus get an even better idea how the Roman past along the shores of the Danube could have looked like.

We have put all these ingredients from archaeological research to re-living the Roman past in Carnuntum into one video that gives you not only a behind the scenes tour in the archaeological depot with the scientific director of Carnuntum, but also invites you to visit Carnuntum with its many different sites and offers yourselves:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBW7MeO9mbs>



Photos by Raffaella Woller, 2021, from left to right:

Roman City Carnuntum – How to Make a Roman Lamp; filming at the Roman City Carnuntum; Scientific Director of Carnuntum at the Depot Hainburg; Roman City Carnuntum – House of Oil Merchant

Living Danube Limes



- connects the Danube Region with its shared Roman heritage
- fosters a common Roman brand
- safeguards and preserves cultural heritage
- develops sustainable tourism solutions
- works towards a Cultural Route spanning the whole Danube Region



Framework Agreement with the Regional Museum of History in Pleven, Bulgaria

Our Bulgarian project partner the Center for Heritage Interpretation entered a cooperation framework with one of the biggest Bulgarian regional history and archaeology museums on the Moesia Roman Danube Limes, the Pleven museum, with the aim of further promoting and valorizing the Roman heritage along the Danube.

The museum was founded in 1953 and is situated in a two-story building, itself monument of culture, which houses 180 000 artifacts and over 10 000 volumes of scientific literature and periodicals. The exhibit area of the museum includes 7000 sq. meters covered space and an open exposition on 3.7 hectares. The museum is a cultural and scientific institute, in which scientists organize research, excavations, preservation, presentation and promotional activities for monuments of culture, natural specimens, flora and fauna found on the territory of the Pleven Region. Antiquity is presented with a rich collection of discoveries from the Roman city of Colonia Ulpia Oescus near the village of Gigen and the Late Roman era, with many architectural details, colourful floor mosaics, and bronze sculptures of deities, household items, or gold ornaments. The museum also presents the exceptional culture of the Thracians, who lived in these lands in Antiquity and became part of the Roman Empire. Some of the museum's treasures are the Valchitran Treasure (XVI - XIII century BCE), the Bohot Treasure (II - I BCE), the golden cup from Belene.

At the beginning of the 1st century CE, the territory of today's Pleven Region became part of the Roman Empire as a province of Moesia, after long military campaigns, which ended during the reign of Emperor Tiberius (14-37 CE). The period of the 2nd to the middle of the 3rd century CE marked the peak of the economy, construction and culture in the province of Lower Moesia. At that time, in the Colonia Ulpia Oescus, one of the largest and most important ancient cities of the Lower Danube, the monumental civil and religious architecture was developing. At the beginning of the 4th century CE, during the reign of Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337 CE), Colonia Ulpia Oescus experienced a second heyday. At this time, a stone bridge was built on the Danube, opened by the Emperor himself on 5 July 328 CE. Another remarkable Roman heritage, in care of the Pleven museum is the Roman road station and castle Dimum, a very important evidence for the province of Moesia's custom stations along the Danube, established in the 1st century CE. Dimum was the place, where goods from distant Roman territories arrived to supply the Roman cities in Moesia and wheat was transported to the other Roman provinces.



Photos: Views from Colonia Ulpia Oescus (Photos by Pleven museum)



Photo left: Valchi Trun treasure, XVI-XIII c. BCE (Photo by Pleven museum)
Photo right: Bohot treasure, II-I c. BCE (Photo by Pleven museum)

SAVE THE DATES

1st International Conference

From 7 - 9 September 2021 our 1st International Conference will take place in Novi Sad, Serbia. It will feature papers on the Danube Limes, Roman riverine traditions, new findings and excavations as well as the potential for Roman storytelling and the 21st century museum education approach. We do not yet know if we will be able to host the conference physically in Novi Sad at the premises of our partner the University of Novi Sad, or if we will have to do it online, but either way it will be a great opportunity to get a more detailed insight into the topics we are dealing with and the state of progress within Living Danube Limes. Follow us online for further updates on the upcoming conference.

Local Focus Groups and Pilot Sites Visits

In 2021 local focus group meetings and pilot site visits will take place in every Living Danube Limes partner country. Whereas the local focus group meetings are aimed at national, regional and local experts ranging from archaeology and ancient history to museums, communication, political stakeholders and conservation specialists, the pilot site visits are organised for anyone interested in the Romans and open for public attendance. Below you find first information on dates for the pilot site visits that are already fixed – do contact your national Living Danube Limes partners for further information or requests about the dates of the pilot site visits.

- 24 July 2021 pilot site visit at Tulln, Austria

2nd Workshop on Roman Shipbuilding Techniques

The second workshop on Roman shipbuilding and shipbuilding techniques focuses on craft methods regarding boat building and woodworking.

It is planned for 23 - 24 July 2021 at Seestraße 17, 91710 Gunzenhausen, Germany.

Attention: Due to the COVID-19 situation, there is currently no guarantee that the workshop will take place. We will keep you informed online.



Photos by Miriam Sapio from left to right:
Hand-forged Roman nails, a sortiment of reconstructed Roman tools, a Roman bow drill in action.

VISIT US ONLINE



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



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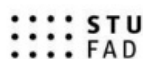
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