



DELIVERABLE D.T1.1.2

Title Identification Pilot Sites

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PP Country ROMANIA

Pilot Site SACIDAVA

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1. Basic Information on the Archaeological Site and its Location

Modern name of the site	Muzait hill
Roman name of the site, if known	Sacidava
Country, Region	Romania, Dobruja region, Constanța county
Municipality	Aliman commune
Type of the site (<i>e.g. fortification, settlement etc.</i>)	fortification
Single site or multiple component site (cluster)	cluster
Dating of the Roman site	2 nd - 6 th centuries
Dating of construction phases, if known	2 nd century, 4 th century, 5 th century
Area of the site [in ha]	3,86
Elevation of the site [in m AA] ¹	60-78 m
Coordinates of the site using WGS84 = EPSG:4326 (<i>if your site covers a large area, indicate a single point its centre</i>)	44°14'24.00"N, 27°50'56.01"E 727667.891, 308487.516
Cover with building structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not covered
Site visibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> underground remains uncovered and visible (excavated, conserved) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archaeological remains above surface until today
State of research (<i>e.g. fully excavated, confirmed by geophysical surveys etc.</i>)	undergoing archaeological research
Conservation status, if known	partially conserved in the early 1980s
List of known remaining archaeological structures	East and West gates, several defense towers
List of Roman military force stationed at the site (<i>e.g. LEGIO, COHORS, ALA</i>)	During the Principality, an infantry unit was stationed, <i>cohors I Cilicum milliaria equitata</i> , but also detachments from <i>Legio V Macedonica</i> and <i>Legio XI Claudia</i> . In the 4th century was atested here <i>Cuneus equitum Scutariorum</i> (according to Notitia Dignitatum. Pars Orientis, XXXIX and XL)
Access to the Danube in ancient times	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Access to the Danube today	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Access to a tributary river in ancient times	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no

¹m AA = Meters Above the Adriatic

	If yes, please indicate the name:
Access to Roman Road Network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please indicate the name of the road: unknown name
UNESCO status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tentative List status (https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6446/) <input type="checkbox"/> World Heritage status <input type="checkbox"/> application process still ongoing no UNESCO status
Legal protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> by national Monument Protection Law (List of Historical Monuments 2015, Constanța County, position 203, code CT-I-m-A-02654.02) <input type="checkbox"/> by planning tools (e.g. protection of townscape, designation of areas, zoning etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> others Please list and describe:
Institutions involved in research on the site (today and in the past)	MUSEUM OF NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY CONSTANȚA (MINAC)
Institutions and stakeholders involved in the presentation of the site	MUSEUM OF NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY CONSTANȚA (MINAC)

2. Archaeological Remains

2.1. History of the Site

- *Historical development of the site:* The Roman Sacidava is one of the three great archeological complexes located on the plateau of Muzait hill; in its immediate vicinity there is a Getic settlement located about 200 m east of the Roman fortified settlement and which has a continuity of habitation from the 4th AC century and until the end of the 1st AC century - the beginning of the 1st BC century, and an early medieval settlement from the IX-X is located about 600 m east of the Roman Sacidava. The stages of evolution in the ancient period are not known, the archeological researches being in an incipient stage. The accidental discoveries, made especially in the second part of the 20 century - funerary inscriptions, altars, milestones, allowed the location of Sacidava, followed by the beginning of systematic archaeological research. The results of the first researches (years 1969-1971), allowed the first conclusions regarding the stratigraphic situation, as follows: the first three levels (I - III) date back to the 6th BC century with the specification that level III falls in the first half of this century. The next two levels (IV and V) were chronologically framed in 5th BC century; the following levels, respectively level VI and level VII are in turn classified as follows: level VI in the second half of the 4th AD century, and level VII in the first half of the same century. The last three levels (VIII, IX and X) fall into the 1-3 BC centuries.

The archaeological material recovered during the excavations is particularly varied and at the same time valuable from a scientific point of view. It is represented primarily by ceramic shapes: amphorae, jugs, pots, cups, plates, plates, to which are added the lampshades, some of them typologically unique at the time of discovery. Local ceramic forms were also harvested, worked by hand or on wheels, considered non-Romanized or in the process of Romanization. The inscriptions have a special place among the discoveries from Sacidava; some were discovered by chance and published before the start of systematic research, others are the result of systematic research. By resuming the research in 2014, the aim was to amplify in the next period the study of the interior area, especially the one located between the two gates, east and west; the aim is to establish as much as possible the evolution in time of this space. A level of early medieval habitation (9th-10th centuries) was also identified inside the fortress. In the last two research campaigns (2019-2020) a series of constructions have been identified, but their research is not completed.

- *If known, please describe the multiple construction phases.* The construction phases cannot yet be properly identified.
- *Historical events related to the site.* The erection of the Roman camp in the 2nd century BC, at the time of the military organization of the Danube limes, by restoring and substantiating the camps on the right bank of the Lower Danube. Fire and destruction in the 3rd century BC, traces along the walls of the enclosure, probably due to Gothic attacks in the middle of this century. In the 4th century BC there is a probable construction of the enclosure on the west side, as well as the construction of a new enclosure on the south side (reorganization of the limes and the province during the Diocletian-Constantine the Great period). Towards the end of the 5th century BC, quite strong fires, but also restorations, related to Hun and Germanic tribal attacks.
- *Strategic importance. Relevance of the site:* the fortress was part of the set of fortifications that constituted the Danube line of defense, part of the system of defense of the Roman world known as limes
- *Historical persons related to the site:* to date, no known historical figures related to the site have been documented.

2.2. Composition and Appearance of the Archaeological Site

Unitary composition of the site, fortress; the external living structures and the necropolis are not identified and delimited. Currently, the following structures are visible from the archeological site: the eastern gate (whose research must be resumed); the western gate (covered with earth in the 40 years that have passed since its research); defense towers, corner and intermediate, visible especially on the south side.

2.3. Architectural Structures

East and West gates, several defense towers; in the last archeological research campaigns, construction remains were identified (houses, possible public utility buildings, water evacuation systems), which have not yet been fully researched.

2.4. The Most Important Finds and their Message

Numerous ceramic fragments, small metal objects (brooches, etc.), coins, inscriptions reused to strengthen the walls; all these outline the image of a fortress constantly inhabited during the 2nd-6th centuries BC, which developed continuously, facing the destructive stages caused by the attacks of migrant populations.

2.5. Surrounding Area

Please describe the natural and cultural landscape around the site. The geography of the place is varied; the administrative unit is located mostly on the relatively high hills of the South Dobrogea Plateau, which alternate with wide valleys, occupied by lakes, connected to the Danube, some of them disappeared in the meantime. Este de mentionat si existenta, la circa 3 km spre est, a lacului Vederoasa. Currently, the site is surrounded by agricultural land. Regarding the cultural landscape, I previously mentioned the Getic and medieval-early dwellings in the vicinity, which are not researched from an archaeological point of view. Over time, Neolithic materials could be collected from the area, but a period dwelling has not been identified so far.

2.6. Literary sources

The fortress is mentioned by Procopius of Caesarea, in the sixth century AD, in a list of fortifications rebuilt in Scythia Minor (*De aedificiis*, IV, 11, 20).

3. Research History

In the 20th century a series of artifacts were discovered (funerary inscriptions, milestones, altars) which led to the conclusion that the ancient fortress of Sacidava was located here. Between 1971 and 1979, a first archeological research campaign took place, and from 2014 and, with interruptions, until 2020, a second research stage began. In the period 1971-1979, the aim was to identify the main stratigraphic landmarks and the elements necessary for framing the evolution of the fortress in the general evolution of the Dobrogea territory in the 2nd-6th centuries BC. Since 2014, the identification of the elements of *intramuros* spatial organization, but also of the types of constructions, the refining of the stratigraphy, etc.

4. Considerations for Touristic Exploitation

4.1. Practical Information

Closest urban community / city	The fortress is located in the middle of the distance between two villages (Dunăreni, Aliman commune, to which it belongs administratively, and Rasova, more economically developed locality), about 7 km away from each
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Ownership	100 % public
Limits of use of or activities at the site (e.g. due to the presence of strategic complexes, factories, companies, military etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
Access to the site (<i>multiple choices possible</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> open to the public <input type="checkbox"/> controlled <input type="checkbox"/> entry fee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> closed to the public, due to the fact that it is being researched, the lack of the possibility to provide permanent security services, but also the location in agricultural land, and far from access roads such as road, paved road, etc., the fortress is not currently visitable <input type="checkbox"/> restricted (e.g. only on request, in summer time etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> others. Please describe:
Site connected to modern road network and public transport	Road network: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no Parking available: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no Public transport: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no Further connected via: <input type="checkbox"/> bicycle routes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ship cruises <input type="checkbox"/> others. Please indicate: Please give a short itinerary: <i>Leaving Constanta, you can reach the A2 highway to Cernavoda from where, on the county road DJ223, passing through Cochirleni, you reach Rasova. From here, the only way to reach the fortress is by agricultural roads. Leaving Bucharest, take the A2 motorway to Lehliu, from where you enter on DN3 to Calarasi. Cross the Danube at Ostrov, then continue on DN3, and after passing Ion Corvin, turn left on DJ223 towards Aliman; from here turn left on DC51 towards Dunareni. From here, you go on agricultural roads to the Sacidava fortress, located on the south bank of the Danube.</i>
Tourist and visitor infrastructure available	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
Tourist and visitor infrastructure planned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (but not earlier than 5 years) <input type="checkbox"/> no
If there is an entrance fee to the	-

site, indicate prices.	
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4.2. Presentation of the Site

Site visualisation, presentation and conservation on-site	<input type="checkbox"/> physical reconstructions for presentation <input type="checkbox"/> virtual reconstructions for presentation <input type="checkbox"/> open air presentation <input type="checkbox"/> protections structures for architectural remains <input type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> information boards <input type="checkbox"/> audio guides <input type="checkbox"/> guided tours <input type="checkbox"/> others. Please describe:
Service	<input type="checkbox"/> souvenir shop <input type="checkbox"/> restaurant <input type="checkbox"/> others. Please describe:
Festivals and events held on-site in the past. Please list.	-
Future festivals and events planned to be organised on-site. Please list.	-
Media appearance (please list past and upcoming TV/radio broadcasts, newspaper articles etc.)	https://patrimoniuldobrogean.ro/en/the-sacidava-fortress/ ; https://www.ziuaconstantia.ro/stiri/ziua-dobrogei/istoria-dobrogei-geografie-localitati-sacidava-687712.html ; https://adevarul.ro/locale/constantia/cetatile-antice-ascunse-dobrogei-afla-sacidava-ibida-halmyris-1_58d274c35ab6550cb892ebde/index.html ; https://povestilemariinegre.ro/dunareni-sacidava-in-cetatea-regelui-roles/ ; https://www.cugetliber.ro/stiri-cultura-educatie-cercetari-arheologice-cetatea-sacidava-o-necunoscuta-cu-un-farmec-aparte-415684 .
Social media appearance	http://www.minac.ro/cetatea-sacidava.html ; https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=sacidava .

5. Protection

Potential threats caused by nature and human	Unauthorized visits of the public; collection of "souvenirs"; unauthorized entry of sheep herds into the fortress.
Existing Cultural Property Protection (CPP) strategies and emergency plans	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please list and describe them:

Existing cooperation with Emergency Responders (military, firefighters, civil protection etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please list and describe them:
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6. Further Practical Information

6.1. International Cooperation

EU funded projects	The fortress was part, together with other Dobrudjan fortifications, of the project Ancient Roman Cultural Heritage Interactive Visualization Environment for the Cross Border Area between Bulgaria and Romania (ARCHIVE) - implementation period 2016-2018, which provided indirect funds for promotion and visibility site: www.archiverobg.eu , http://www.romanforts.eu/en/sacidava .
Research projects	Systematic archaeological research funded by MINAC
International schools / camps	-
Other types of partnership	Interdisciplinary research protocol concluded with Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (2020, 2021).

6.2. Information Relevant for Further Living Danube Limes Project Activities

Possibility to berth the LDL ship at the end of the project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes With minimal arrangements <input type="checkbox"/> no If no, is there a “partner site” where the LDL ship can land in 2022? Which? Rasova, where a port scaffolding was arranged in the Middle Ages; 20 km north is the town of Cernavoda (ancient Axiopolis), which has port facilities, receiving cruise ships.
Site accessibility for visitors 2020-2022	<input type="checkbox"/> accessible <input type="checkbox"/> not accessible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not known
Site availability for public LDL events and project activities	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If no, is there a “partner site” where the LDL events can be hosted? Which? Cernavoda (ancient Axiopolis)

7. Bibliography

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8. Remarks

The inclusion of the Sacidava fortress in research projects or cultural projects can substantially increase the visibility of the site and, beyond the scientific information obtained, can enable the attraction of funds to highlight this important fortress on the Danube border.