

# Living Danube Limes

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

# E-Newsletter

Issue #1, January 2021



**Interreg**



Danube Transnational Programme

**Living Danube Limes**



## LIVING DANUBE LIMES IS ON!

Launched on 1st of July, 2020, the project „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), funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, aims at creating a foundation stone for a future Danube Limes Cultural Route, representing Roman heritage along the Danube Limes, connecting all countries in the Danube Region and linking them to the huge network of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire, stretching from the Hadrian’s Wall in Great Britain to the *Limites* in North Africa and the Near East.

We are very pleased to give you insights on the facts of the project, detailed information on our partners, as well as on the state of progress in our first issue of the Living Danube Limes-Newsletter.

## LIVING DANUBE LIMES IN A FEW WORDS

Fostering a common bond in the Danube Region via heritage shared by all Danube countries is the main aim of the Danube Transnational Programme project “Living Danube Limes”. The Roman Danube Limes heritage and the Danube itself connect Central Europe with South-Eastern Europe and Living Danube Limes will further enhance that connection by highlighting the common heritage and the potential it holds for future development.

Living Danube Limes will

- foster a common Roman brand for the Danube countries,
- pave the ground for a Cultural Route spanning the whole Danube Region,
- develop strategies for preservation and management of cultural and natural heritage and
- foster green and sustainable tourism development.

For reaching this goal, Living Danube Limes follows a holistic approach to these issues, including

- archaeology and history,
- museums as dissemination hubs for both academia and the broad public,
- protection measures for cultural heritage and sustainable tourism solutions.
- Academia and broad public are directly linked via the reconstruction of a 4<sup>th</sup> century CE Danube patrol vessel, of the *lusoria*-type, which is also the physical link between the identified pilot sites and the partner countries themselves.

### PROJECT FACTSHEET

Start date: 01-07-2020

End date: 30-12-2022

Budget in Euro

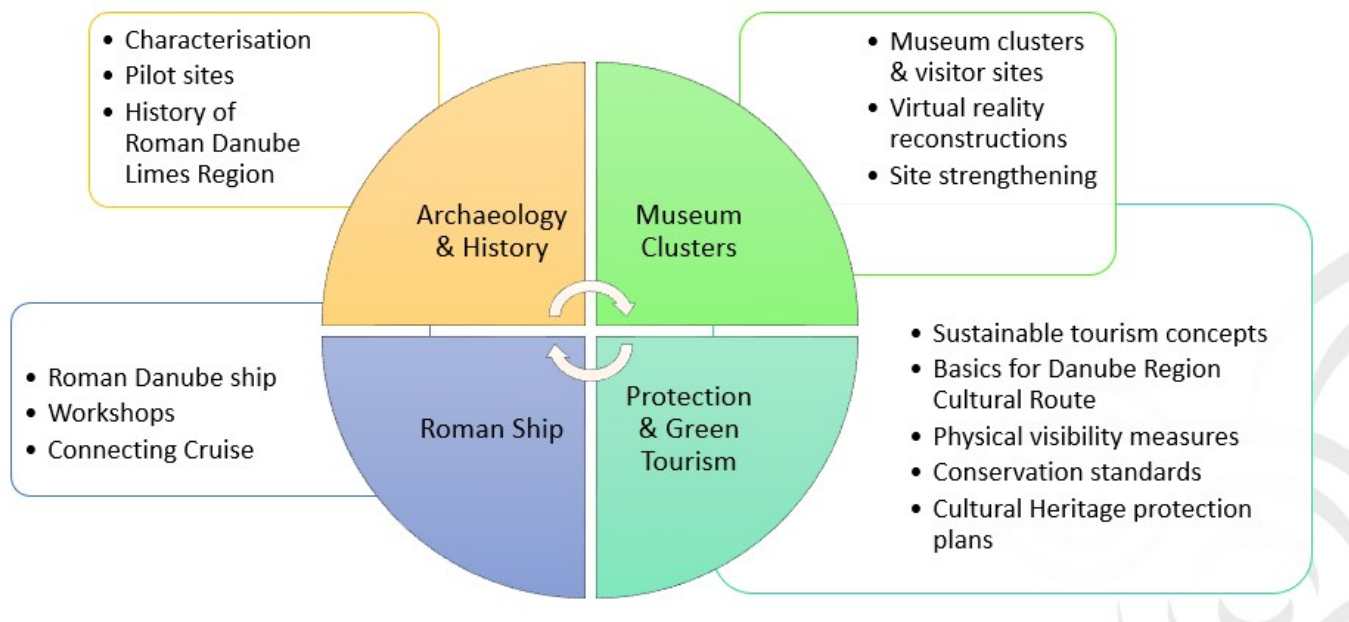
Overall: 3151121.2

ERDF Contribution: 2485485.95

IPA Contribution: 130942.07

ENI Contribution: 62024.92

All these aspects of Living Danube Limes are equally important, interlinked and directly dependent on each other:



The four sections in the graph are identical to the four main thematic work packages (WPTs) in Living Danube Limes:

- WPT1 “Characterising the Danube Limes Region” deals with archaeology and history of the Roman era along the Danube.
- WPT2 “Placement and strengthening of museum clusters and visitor centres in the Danube Limes region” is the equivalent to the museum clusters part in the graph.
- WPT3 “Transnational protection concept of cultural heritage items along the Danube including green tourism solutions” deals with protection of the Roman heritage as well as green tourism.
- WPI1 “Reconstruction of a fully functional Roman Danube Ship for connecting the Danube Region and fostering sustainable tourism” is the part of Living Danube Limes in which the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE *Iusoria* is reconstructed.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE LIVING DANUBE LIMES PARTNERS

The Living Danube Limes partnership consists of 46 partners (19 project partners and 27 associated strategic partners) from 10 Danube region countries: Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova. Find out more about our 19 project partners in the following:

### Danube University Krems, Center for Cultural Property Protection (Austria) as Lead Partner

DUK is the leading public university for continuing education in Europe. With its expertise in teaching and research, it works to overcome societal challenges. Located in the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape of Wachau in Austria, it lays great value on respect and sustainable exploitation of cultural heritage. Within the project, DUK as Lead Partner is mainly involved with its Center for Cultural Property Protection. The center applies a broad, coherent and practise-related approach. Thanks to the close cooperation with the Center for Architectural Heritage and Infrastructure at the Department for Building and Environment, the specific requirements and needs for cultural property in general and for UNESCO-World Heritage sites in particular can be met. The practical implementation of cultural property protection is assured through an efficient and global network.



In Living Danube Limes DUK contributes its expertise on cultural heritage protection from all kinds of threats, from natural to man-made ones, UNESCO World Heritage, management plans of cultural heritage sites, aspects of cultural heritage resilience, issues of cultural sustainability and green tourism. DUK also supplies archaeological expertise as well as expertise in disseminating the Roman past in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to the project.

### Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany)

The professorship of ancient history at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg is one of the most innovative institutes in the Federal Republic of Germany and worldwide. This can be seen in both research and education:

In education, the professorship organises the project "Schülerkontaktstudium" for the entire university. In this way, the professorship supports the transition from school to university for pupils of all subjects. Students of ancient history are also supported during their studies in exercises, seminars, lectures (with accompanying tutorials) and during exams with exam-related training and seminar-accompanied coaching for qualification work at every level.



Photos by: Background: modified, Seby CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>> via Wikimedia Commons, Image, Boris Dreyer: modified, © Mathias Orgeldinger, Image, Vigdis Bettischnitt: modified, © Mathias Orgeldinger

The Institute is strongly funded by third parties: supported by the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the DFG, the Volkswagen Foundation, the Thyssen Foundation, HRK, BMBF and EU funding programmes. The Institute carries out basic research with a focus on the constitutional history of Athens, ancient historiography, Roman provincial history, the history of Roman-Germanic relations and Greek epigraphy. Publications on new discoveries and research discussions are published on an ongoing basis. Over the last four years, a further focus has been established with the reconstruction of Roman river ships according to scientific criteria. The first replica took place between 2016 and 2018 with the construction of the F.A.N., which travelled on the Danube to the Black Sea. Currently a new centre in Gunzenhausen (close to the site of the old Roman fort) and at the (modern) Altmühlsee is being built and the reconstruction of the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE Danube patrol boat of the type “*lusoria*” is undertaken there. As the projects listed above show, the professorship is also committed to the close connection between science and the public (science mediated). In this way, the institute shows how effective and modern ancient history can be today.

## Department of Antiquities / Ancient History, Paris Lodron University Salzburg (Austria)

The Department of Antiquities consists of three units: Ancient History, Classical and Early Aegean Archaeology and Classical Philology. Its focus lies on researching the history, culture and civilization, art and literature of antiquity, its predecessor cultures in the Mediterranean area and their post-ancient transformations.

The main topics of the Ancient History unit are Roman Provincial history and sociology or cultural mediation, but also economic and social history, cultural and mental history, military history and history of medicine.

Head of the PLUS Team is Mag. Dr Rupert Breitwieser, whose main targets lie on the History of Medicine, Underwater Archaeology,

Ancient Ships and Seamanship and Roman Provincial Studies. Further members of the Team are Mag. Dr Maria Erker BA, who is specialized in Museum pedagogy and education and Anna Windischbauer BA, a Master student of Archaeology and Ancient History at PLUS, who is focusing on Roman Provincial Studies.

PLUS will contribute with its expertise in Roman Provincial Studies and museum pedagogy an essential part in the research of the history and development of the Austrian Danube Limes sites as well as in cultural mediation and museology.



## Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology (Austria)

The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology (LBI ArchPro) is an international research initiative that is dedicated to the development and advancement of future technologies and methods for safeguarding our common cultural heritage. The LBI ArchPro's approach is based on the application of non-invasive, efficient archaeological prospection and digital documentation methods.

Remote sensing (laser scanning, aerial imaging, image-based 3D modelling) and near-surface geophysical prospection



(magnetometry, ground penetrating radar) are used in archaeology to discover and explore buried and still standing archaeological structures without exposing it to the risk of destruction. The LBI ArchPro team develops motorized multi-sensor measurement systems for high-precision prospection surveys at all scales – from single stones to entire archaeological landscapes.

Efficient software tools are developed and employed for the computer-based visualisation and archaeological interpretation of the collected data. On the computer, the experts search for archaeological structures hidden in the virtual data images. The virtual dig results in digital archaeological interpretation maps and 3D virtual reconstructions.

Since 2010, the LBI ArchPro has investigated many archaeological landscapes throughout Europe with its groundbreaking research approach, such as the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites of Stonehenge and the Viking Age settlement of Birka-Hovgården or the Roman town of Carnuntum in Austria.

The LBI ArchPro is a research institute of the Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft and is based in Vienna, Austria.

## Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Czech Republic)

The predecessor of the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (ITAM) was established in 1921 as a building research and testing facility of the Czech Technical University in Prague. In 1953, the Institute was incorporated into the newly established Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (later Czech Academy of Sciences). The Institute traditionally focuses on research related to building materials, structures and sites. It performs basic and applied research in the field of solid phase mechanics oriented particularly on dynamics, micromechanics, biomechanics, nonlinear mechanics, processes of failure of materials and mechanics of particulate media. It has been further involved in research into interdisciplinary problems of cultural heritage supporting scientific base for preservation, knowledge and use of monuments, historic settlements and cultural landscapes. It studies the hidden characteristics of cultural heritage objects for the purposes of their dating, origin and archaeometry. It also deals with the techniques of historical construction and historical urbanism. Research is particularly focused on methods of managing historic buildings and settlements facing impacts of global challenges and risks on cultural heritage, including the impacts of inappropriate use, such as mass tourism, or that of natural and man-made disasters, namely floods, earthquake and wind action in combination with other harming weather effects. There are studied methods for effective safeguarding, resilience improvement and preservation of cultural heritage before and after the disaster.



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## The Municipal Monument Preservation Institute in Bratislava (Slovakia)

The Municipal Monument Preservation Institute in Bratislava (MMPI) is a research institution with experts in archaeology, ethnography, architecture and art history situated in the centre of Bratislava Old Town. For the 52 years of its existence (founded in 1968), it has been the only municipal monument preservation institution in Slovakia, with co-ordinating, advisory and scientific supervision role. During that time, many significant archaeological excavations and discoveries were achieved. The MMPI was awarded three times in the category “The Best Discovery of the Year in Slovakia” (1996, 2002 and 2009), two times “Exhibition of the Year” (2015, 2017) and once for “Event – Long Term Project” (2019) by the Prize of journal Monuments and



Museums and the Monuments Board of Slovak Republic. In the year 2003, the Institute was awarded by the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage - Europa Nostra Award for the Fischermens's Forge archaeological excavation and presentation.

Ivo Štassel is the director of the MMPI since 2004. He studied art history within the scope of the topic of historic architecture and works as a conservationist since then. His praxis was mainly focused on the city of Bratislava in the fields of historic urbanism, presentation of archaeological heritage and monuments restoration, both movable and immovable. Margaréta Musilová works as an archaeologist at the MMPI since 1984. Besides her archaeological research work, she is operating in the field of presentation and popularization of (not only) archaeological heritage. For her efforts, she received several prizes (e.g. Europa Nostra, Prize of the magazine Monuments and Museums).

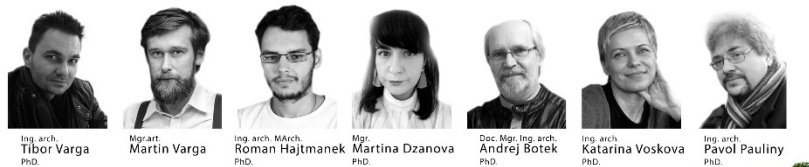
Anna Gondová is an architect and researcher focusing on the topic of monuments restoration, history and theory of architecture and activities, connected to the presentation of tangible and intangible heritage.

Silvia Nováčiková studied in the field of archaeology and comparative religionistics and took part in excavations both at home and abroad.

Jana Gillányiová works as an accountant at the MMPI with long-time experience in the field of financial management.

## Slovak University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture (Slovakia)

The teaching of architecture at the STU began in 1946, making the Faculty of Architecture (FA) the newest addition to the Slovak University of Technology Faculty. At that time the Department of Architecture and Structural Engineering was established as a part of the Structural Engineering Branch at Slovak Polytechnic (SVŠT), today called the Faculty of Civil Engineering. In the following seventy years, the Faculty has transformed into a vital and competitive institution and serves over 1000 students each year. Although having Design study programmes under its roof for more than 25 years, in 2020 Design has made it to the official title of the institution too. The Faculty of Architecture has been renamed and as of September 2020 the Faculty of Architecture and Design has started to write its new common history.



Nowadays, the Faculty of Architecture and Design STU is the largest educational institution for architects and designers in the Slovak Republic. The faculty profile reflects university principles and establishes a condition for professional performance within the home country and the EU framework. In this respect, there is a clear orientation to prepare architects, urban planners, and designers within a creative framework. The present two-year tier system of study focuses on the preparedness of a graduate. Awareness in the art and theory subjects is emphasized, as well as in a variety of technical and design subjects from urban planning to interior design.

The Faculty of Architecture and Design is situated in a building designed by Emil Belluš, the most important Slovak architect in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the founder of the school for whom the hall "Aula of Professor Belluš" (residing within the college) is named. In addition to such lecture classrooms, studios, computer facilities, and the Faculty library which holds significant professional books and journals (many that are internationally acclaimed) may be utilized for the development of creative abilities and professional skills.

## Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation (Hungary)

The Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation dates back its history to 1870; therefore, the institution is almost in the same age with the university-level, organized education of architecture in Hungary.

The Department of Architecture, founded in the aforementioned age under the leadership of Imre Steindl, can be considered as its predecessor. Certainly, over the long decades, the name, task and staff has changed significantly, but all the time it was a national scientific workshop for the education of the architectural history in Hungary.

Besides the history of architecture, earlier, building design, later, and still today, the scientific research of monument preservation and architectural theory played an important role in the portfolio of the Department.

The most important task of the Department is to teach the complete spectre of the architectural history through theoretical lectures and practical seminars in a comprehensive way. The subject of the history of architecture accompanies students throughout their education. The transfer of knowledge on the monument preservation is based on their skills developed in the aforementioned lectures. Our aim is to validate a historical approach within complex (supplemented with professional consultation) architectural design and diploma design courses.

The Department also offers post gradual education with the degree of Specialised Engineer in Preservation of Built Heritage.

The professors of the Department participate in the work of the Standing Committee of History and Theory of Architecture and Monument Preservations at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The research work of the Department is supported by a professional library of nearly 20,000 volumes and archive books and the service of information by a professional librarian as well as a unique Archive of Drawings and Plans. The online scientific journal of the Department called *Architectura Hungariae* has been published for several years. One of the Academy's journals, the *Architectonics and Architecture (Építés-Építészettudomány)* is also edited at the Department as well as the scientific journal called *Monument Preservation (Műemlékvédelem)* and the scientific journal of the Faculty of Architecture, called *Periodica Polytechnica Architecture*. During the academic year, our aim is to provide personal experience for the architectural students through regular on-site survey programmes in Hungary or abroad. The department also considers as an important task to involve the next generations in research, therefore our students are key participants of Scientific Student Conferences.

An important aim of the Department is to participate in contemporary scientific discourse, various national and international cooperation and research programmes.

All the lecturers and staff of the Department are involved in the education and research works of the project.



## Davino Ltd. (Hungary)

DAVINO offers extensive tourism and cultural heritage consulting experience in preparing and implementing tourism and cultural heritage strategies and action plans as well as in producing realistic, practical business plans for partners large and small and from international to local levels. DAVINO's destination consultants offer in-depth expertise relating to cultural and heritage projects, ranging in scope from management plans for specific heritage sites to exploring the impact and potential of cultural festivals. DAVINO is the most widely used consultancy in this area and has a wealth of experience and expertise, from overall strategy to guiding the design and management of new tourist and cultural information



centres. DAVINO is committed to tourism and cultural heritage development that is truly sustainable and offers destination-consulting services in sustainable tourism development and management that are integrated with market development. DAVINO has almost 10 years' experience of providing consultancy services with integrity, transparency and commitment.

Transnational cultural products represent common European shared values, tourism, arts, geography, history and heritage. DAVINO is implementing a number of activities to support transnational cultural and tourism products based on specific themes, which still have great potential for growth. DAVINO has a strong experience in the field of culture, arts and tourism, with expertise on historical and cultural issues. DAVINO is interested in being partner of cultural, tourism and art projects.

## Institute of Archaeology (Croatia)

The Institute of Archaeology was established on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1961 at a founding session, by a Decision of the Department of Archaeology and the Department of Art History of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, under the name of the "Institute of Art History and Archaeology" to further scientific work on the study of national heritage in the fields of archaeology and the history of art.

By a Decision of the Council of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, of 15<sup>th</sup> May 1965, the institution began working under the name "Archaeological Institute". By a Decision of the Council of the University of Zagreb, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1968 it acquired the status of an independent Archaeological Institute of the University of Zagreb. Based on the Organisation of Scientific Work Act and the Decision of the Republic Council for Scientific Work of 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1976, the Institute was integrated into the Centre for Historical Sciences, and on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1987 into the Institute for Historical Sciences of the University of Zagreb. On 21<sup>st</sup> November 1990, the Institute for Art History became independent from the Institute for Historical Sciences. An independent Institute for Art History, to which the Department of Archaeology was attached, was established by a Decision of the Ministry of Science and Technology of 1<sup>st</sup> October 1991.

The Institute of Archaeology has established itself as the central scientific institution for basic and applied archaeological research in the Republic of Croatia, which covers all archaeological periods, while also developing the theory and methodology of research as well as creating ARHINDOKS (Archaeological Information Documentation Centre) as thematic databases of archaeological sites and finds. In addition to basic archaeological research, the staff of the Institute of Archaeology takes part in higher education. The Institute of Archaeology has developed a rich publication activity by publishing scientific and professional journals, monographs and proceedings, as well as organizing international scientific conferences, round tables and workshops.



## Institute of Archaeology (Serbia)

The Institute of Archaeology in Belgrade was founded on May 31, 1947, with the aim of gathering experts in the field of archaeology in one scientific institution. Originally, it was part of Serbian Academy of Sciences, imagined as a place from which future archaeological actions would be organized and systematically coordinated both nationally and internationally. The work of the Institute was always based on scientific research, systematic excavations and surveys of archaeological sites, publications, as well as cooperation with other institutions related to archaeology and protection of cultural heritage. Since 1961, the Institute of Archaeology is a fully independent scientific institution financed by the Ministry of Sciences.

The researchers of the Institute lead a large number of significant excavations in Serbia. Among them protective excavations that followed construction of the hydroelectric power plants „Đerdap 1“ and „Đerdap 2“ on the Danube stands out by the scope, importance and the number of sites that they yielded. In recent decades, the Institute continues to conduct archaeological research of numerous prominent sites, independently or in cooperation with museums, institutes for the protection of cultural monuments and international partners.

In 1950, the Institute was honoured to take over the publication of the oldest archaeological journal in Serbia – „Starinar“, which continues to this day. Along with „Starinar“, publishing activity of the Institute includes a series of special editions, numerous monographs, and thematic proceedings.

The number of associates of the Institute has gradually increased, so today the Institute has over 50 permanent researchers and about a hundred external associates. The Institute, despite the turbulent events of the last decades, has managed to survive for over 70 years, and to achieve continuously significant and notable results. This unique and central archaeological scientific institution is located in the centre of Belgrade, in the building of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.



## Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad (Serbia)

The Faculty of Technical Sciences is the largest faculty of the University of Novi Sad, established in 1960. It consists of 13 departments, 10 administrative services and 31 research centres. It offers 90 accredited study programmes. With over 15.000 students and 1.200 employees, the Faculty ranks among the largest and most developed faculties in the region.

Rapid response in generating new technologies and the need to renovate the existing ones as well as the intensive growth of the economy and the social sector, demand the corresponding development of research work, research-oriented faculty and the effective centres for transforming the knowledge into purposeful technologies. This presumes:

- Intensive development of knowledge
- High quality of the educational process



- Flexible curricula
- New, functional relationship faculty – enterprise.

Consequently, the activities of the Faculty of Technical Sciences have been divided in the following manner:

- Education
- Research and development
- Applied research (cooperation with industry)

Research activities of the Faculty are directed towards the realization of research within fundamental, innovation and technology development projects. The Faculty is accredited as a research and scientific institution. The Faculty's research and development activities are conducted in modern laboratories and computer centres. Currently, there are more than 120 projects supported by Serbian and provincial ministries of science and technology and 87 international projects realized in different frameworks: COST, EUREKA, H2020, INTERREG, ERASMUS+ and CEEPUS.

## National Tourism Cluster "Bulgarian Guide" (Bulgaria)

National Tourism Cluster "Bulgarian Guide" is a tourist organisation focused on the sustainable development of specialised types of tourism, including cultural heritage and cultural tourism, sustainable tourism development and encouraging the entrepreneurship development in the tourism sector. Its mission is linked to provide enriching travel experience to the "seeking" tourists and to support the sustainable development of tourism related SMEs through implementation of innovative approaches for provision of tourism services and packages.



NTC BG Guide is experienced in the following areas:

- Marketing and branding activities; organization of various events, e.g. B2B meetings, festivals, trainings. It was a co-organiser of international matchmaking events within the ITB-Berlin in 2015 and 2016.
- Design of tourist packages and tourist routes
- Development of online platforms and apps, incl. informational and marketing tourism websites, online education and training platforms, business accelerator, business simulation game.
- Research and analysis of market conditions, legal frameworks, needs assessment, curricula, and educational systems.
- Elaboration of complex strategies, incl. on sustainable tourism development, valorisation of cultural heritage, implementation innovative business models.
- Development of soft and digital skills among young people, encouraging entrepreneurship.
- NTC has developed and is currently successfully maintaining a portfolio of several IT platforms, incl.:
  - Tourism platform ([www.bg-guide.org/en](http://www.bg-guide.org/en)) about Bulgarian cultural heritage, environmental sites, attractions, and culinary spots (restaurants) providing the user the opportunity for a different tourist experience. The platform was awarded with the prize "Favourite Audience Web-site" of the Bulgarian Web Awards 2015.
  - Educational platforms in the field of tourism: [www.trans-edu.net](http://www.trans-edu.net) , [www.virtualrooms.eu](http://www.virtualrooms.eu) , [www.sem-centres.eu](http://www.sem-centres.eu)
  - Tourism based business simulation game: [www.hotelempire.eu](http://www.hotelempire.eu)

## Centre for Heritage Interpretation (Bulgaria)

The CHI is an independent NGO, established in 2011, that works to enrich accessibility and quality of cultural offers by design and introduction of creative cultural experiences for tourists and visitors. It provides knowledge, tools and skills to support heritage manufacturing by involving citizens in direct and digital formats of learning. CHI aims to inspire entrepreneurship by advancing quality heritage interpretation and acknowledgement, to create public understanding and appreciation of heritage and allow for social inclusion by “improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of...people on the basis of their identity” (The World Bank). The historical and cultural sites, landscapes, nature and theme parks,



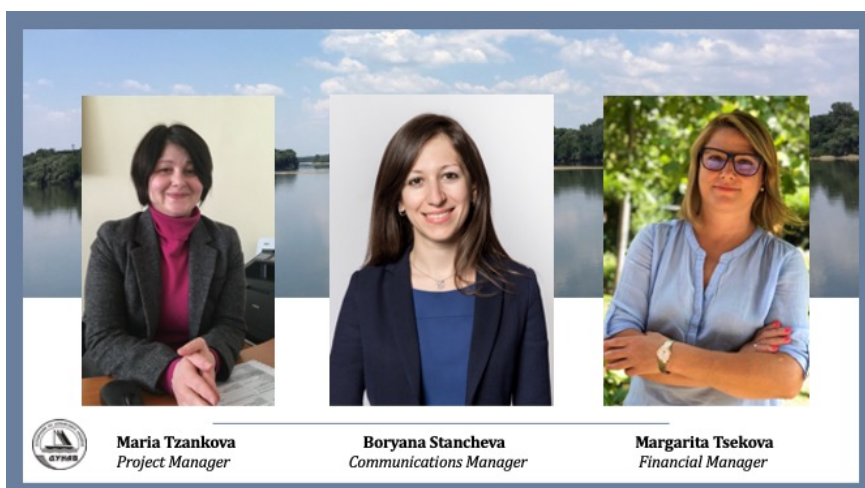
museums, local communities, tourism establishments, creative cultural industries, etc., are the focus. CHI is a member of the Bulgarian National Tourism Council, a consultative body to the Minister of Tourism and the Interpret Europe Association and collaborates with many organisations in the field of culture and tourism. It designs and implements a new generation of cultural heritage interpretive products and services for heritage sites, cultural operators and tourism establishments, which involve visitors and locals in inclusive experiencing and co-creation. CHI promotes authentic cultures, which create value and respond to the new demands for emotional tourism. It builds value chains by participative co-management, thus fostering inclusive and sustainable community planning for improved intergenerational and intercultural dialogue. CHI works for heritage resilience and rejuvenation in private and public spaces by applying internationally adopted criteria and standards for quality story writing and storytelling. It organizes trainings on how to engage audiences and relate directly to the DNA of local heritage and destinations.

## Association of Danube River Municipalities “Danube” (Bulgaria)

The Association of Danube River Municipalities “Danube” (ADRM) is a regional association of 35 local public authorities (municipalities) in the Bulgarian part of the Danube region. It was founded in 1993. ADRM has a strong regional identity and leads the process of formulation of a concept and strategy for regional development as part of the Danube macro-region and for the attainment of the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Priority policy areas for the Association are transport connectivity, tourism, energy and environment, education and research and, civil protection. Horizontal issues are good governance, smart specialisation, innovation and sustainable development, cross-border and transnational cooperation.

ADRM is uniquely experienced in the Lower Danube area as concerns the valorisation of the common Roman Limes heritage: ADRM has developed a tourism route with all its elements (strategies and promotional materials); has compiled information and research on the Roman Limes sites, museums and festivals as well as good practices in development and promotion of the Roman heritage; has built partnerships with all the relevant stakeholders in Bulgaria and Romania. This



experience can be built on in the larger partnership within the framework of Living Danube Limes. The informational base and educational/promotional materials on the topic Roman Frontier will be applied and further developed on a larger geographical scale.

## “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urban Planning (Romania)

“Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urban Planning in Bucharest is the oldest and most important academic institution in this field in Romania. It continues a long tradition of local architectural higher education, the foundation of which is closely linked with the rise of modern Romania and the setting of its new institutional structure and culture, during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest offers several Bachelor, Master’s level and Doctorate degree programmes, leading to different specializations in the fields of Architecture and Urbanism.

The Bachelor’s and Master’s programmes are coordinated by the three Faculties of the University: the Faculty of Architecture, the Faculty of Interior Architecture, and the Faculty of Urban Planning.

The UAUIM has one of the largest faculty of architecture in Eastern Europe. Its curriculum covers a wide range of architectural studies: from architecture and planning, from design to technology, from structure to construction, from sustainability to energy efficiency, etc.

After 15 years since its foundation, the Faculty of Interior Architecture proposes continuing and improving its offer formatting from three study programs.

The Faculty of Urban Planning has been operative since 1997, because of the need to have an urban planner trained in the proximity of the building designer education, so that the two directions of study overlap each other within the urban design field.

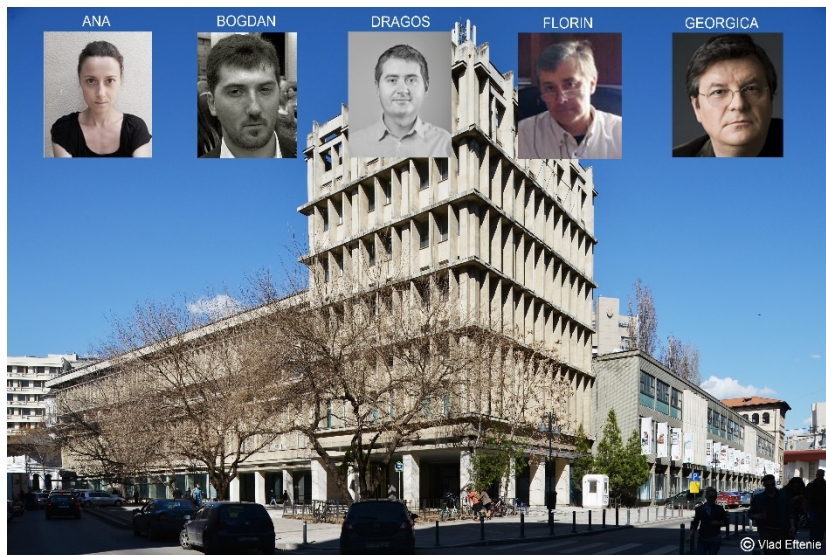
UAUIM has relations with more than 80 schools of architecture in Europe, Asia, South America and the United States. The Tempus program and subsequently the Erasmus program have facilitated the exchanges of students and teachers between the UAUIM and more than 50 schools of architecture in Europe.

## Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanta (Romania)

The National History and Archaeology Museum of Constanta is one of the richest museums in Romania and the second largest institution in the country, after the National History Museum of Romania in Bucharest.

The National History and Archaeology Museum hosts an impressive heritage, consisting of over 430,000 objects dating from the Palaeolithic to modern times. What characterises the museum in comparison to similar institutions in other counties is that although the focus is on the history of Dobrogea, it also covers a national thematic area.

The institution houses Greek, Romanian, Byzantine and medieval objects (stone, bronze, iron tools and weapons), ceramics, antique architectural elements (i.e. columns, capitals, pediments, scenery), ancient sculptures, glass vases, bronze statues, jewellery, coins (the collection includes silver, bronze and gold coins, some of them unique), icons,



documents, maps, models, photographs, telegrams, magazines, objects of some personalities of the early twentieth century, furniture and other objects of great historical significance.

## National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism (Romania)

The National Institute of Research and Development in Tourism - INCDT is the only institution in Romania specialized in scientific research of national interest in the field of tourism. INCDT has a vast experience in tourism research accumulated over 49 years of continuous activity. The role of INCDT is to substantiate the scientific basis for the development of Romanian tourism in all its forms, to contribute to increasing the competitiveness of this sector, and to develop national and local strategies in this field.

INCDT has been involved in more than 14 EU-financed projects since 2010, aiming at strengthening international cooperation in the field of tourism at EU level and particularly within the Danube Region.

The Institute implemented many national projects financed under the national research programs and contributed to the development of numerous tourism infrastructures for mountain and seaside resorts, balneotherapeutic resorts, as well as the development of the National Tourism Strategy 2019-2022, the General Master Spatial Planning - Tourism Chapter, the National Ecotourism Strategy and many other various local and regional level strategies.

INCDT is a member of various working groups in the field of tourism and has been a member of the European Cultural Tourism Network since 2014.

INCDT's main areas of competence are the development of studies and statistics in tourism, development of local, county and regional strategies in tourism, technical documentations (feasibility and pre-feasibility studies) and research and development in tourism.



## Republic of Moldova

We also have a Moldovan partner in Living Danube Limes and look forward to present this institution in the next issue of our newsletter.

## STATUS QUO OF THE WORK IN LIVING DANUBE LIMES

### Report on Work package WP T1

As a basis for the whole project, it is crucial to archaeologically and historically characterise and understand the various facets of the Roman Danube Limes in order to be able to present and promote this joint cultural heritage site accordingly. The Limes should not only be understood as a hard border, guarded and defended by the military, but rather as a natural barrier that served either as a line of defence in times of unrest and war, or as a connecting element used for transport and trade. Furthermore, one has to consider that each section of the Danube Limes, which as a whole stretched over a distance of almost 3000 kilometres along the northern border of the Roman Empire, went through a different development due to the progress of Roman expansion, the various Germanic tribes settling in the different areas, the varying natural conditions etc. Thus, as a very first step we jointly developed a paper dealing with diverse aspects characterising the Roman Danube Limes and the life along this ancient “wet border” in the first six centuries CE.

Another central part of WP T1 is the identification of eight pilot sites, one in each of the following partner countries (from west to east in accordance to the Danube’s flow direction): Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania. In order to gather valuable information on their archaeological remains, the project partner Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology (LBI ArchPro) will conduct extensive geophysical surveys at several pilot sites during the first half of the year 2021. A geophysical survey is a non-destructive prospection method used to explore and map archaeological structures below the ground surface. The results of those examinations will further serve as the basis for Virtual Reality reconstructions to be developed in WPT2.

Thus, the LBI ArchPro provided the Living Danube Limes partners with a criteria catalogue in order to support them in identifying Roman sites promising for a geophysical survey. Based on this, the partner countries pre-defined a selection of possible pilot sites. After an assessment based on further criteria, such as tourism potential of the sites, the final selection will be made and the eight Living Danube Limes pilot sites will be finally identified at the beginning of 2021. We look forward to present them to you in the second issue of our newsletter.

### Reconstruction of the Late Roman Danube Ship in WP I1



Photos by: M. Orgeldinger

Based on the remains of Roman ship wrecks discovered in Mainz in 1981, our partner Friedrich-Alexander University reconstructs a late Roman Danube ship from the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE. The reconstruction is based on the Mainz wrecks I and V, exhibited in the Museum of Ancient Seafaring in Mainz. The ship is reconstructed as close to the Roman conditions as possible and will be completed by the end of June 2022 and sail down the Danube to the Black Sea in a cruise connecting all Living Danube Limes pilot sites and partner countries. After the project is completed, she will stay in each partner country bordering on the Danube for one year. The name of our reconstructed ship is *Danuvina Alacris*, which nicely corresponds to the first two parts of our project name, Living Danube.

So far, our boat builder started working with the lines plans, discussed with Roland Bockius, who published the late antique wrecks found in Mainz in 2006. The survey is available, the wrecks were recorded in 3-D and the reconstruction

started; a group of volunteers, students and the boat builder are currently fully emerged in the process. After felling the spruce trees necessary for mast and spars, and the production of the first oars, which are also made of spruce, the big oak felling action took place at the beginning of November; 18 oaks on 20 meters with an average diameter of 50 cm, further 90 crooks from the crowns at least thigh thick. These had to be transported to the building site in Schlungenhof in Germany where they had to be fenced so that they dry in time while the mall frames are being built.

All these activities are carried out as close as possible to Roman handcraft methods and with Roman tools. For this purpose, we have had Roman tools made since 1<sup>st</sup> July, e.g. a Roman forge, saws, drills, hoes, and planes.

## REPORT ON LIVING DANUBE LIMES ACTIVITIES

### Kick-off Meeting Online



On August 10, 2020, the kick-off gathered over 80 participants from the ten partner countries. The meeting was opened by project coordinator Anna Kaiser of Danube University Krems - Lead Partner of the project - by welcoming all project and associated partners and by proposing a toast to the successful start of the project. During the kick-off meeting, the project was outlined in detail by Danube University Krems and the individual work package leads. All the project and associated partners presented themselves and their institutions. We were joined by Mrs. Ana Leganel, project officer at the Joint Secretariat of Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, who was happy to get the Living Danube Limes-project on its way formally on behalf of the Joint Secretariat and who gave detailed insights in facts and figures on the Danube Transnational Programme.



## First Local Focus Group Meeting Germany

The first part of the first Local Focus Group Meeting in and for Germany was conducted online on 16 September 2020 and was attended by Prof Alexandra Busch (general director of Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum), Prof Friederike Fless (president of the German Archaeological Institute), Prof Michael Sommer (chairman of the German Limes Commission) and Prof Dreyer (FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg). The topics discussed in this chosen expert circle were support for the publicity of the project, media products for museums and volunteers for the building of the Roman Danube ship. The idea of a travelling exhibition, which could be offered the museums on the Danube and accompany the project was also brought to the virtual table.

As a second part of the first Local Focus Group meeting, a stakeholder meeting was held on 16 October in the Gunzenhausen town hall (Gunzenhausen is the main place of the ship reconstruction). This was attended by the first mayor of Gunzenhausen, Mr Fitz, Daniel Burmann, the head of the special purpose association, Wolfgang Eckerlein, head of the tourism office as well as Boris Dreyer, Alexander Hilverda, Christina Sponzel-Schaffner from the FAU and the local cultural representatives, Mr Sommer (chairman of the German Limes Commission), Mr Gschwind (Bayerische Denkmalpflege), Ms May (Limesfachberatung). The main points discussed with the stakeholders were the long-term perspectives the project can offer for the region, inter alia for supporting Gunzenhausen's efforts for a new Limes Museum, fully equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century media. Another big issue, which is dear to the project itself was highlighted and firmly reaffirmed by all sides – the historicity of the local and regional activities within Living Danube Limes.

## Public kick-off Event Ship Building



Photos by: M. Orgeldinger

On 24 September, the kick off for the shipbuilding took place in Gunzenhausen (Germany).

Reenactors from Austria and Germany were very well received and presented their Middle Imperial to Late Antique equipment, which had its respective base camp in Roman tents. Well separated due to Covid-19 and marked with a clear circular route, the audience got an impression of Roman craftsmanship between two and 6 p.m. in fine weather, with two reenactors at a forge where Roman nails were forged. The products of the blacksmith were also on display: Roman axes, hatchets, adzes, planes and drills. Roman shoes were also presented. There were 300 spectators and representatives of local museums and culture.

## Online-Workshop Ship Building

On December 14, 2020 a workshop on the reconstruction of the *lusoria*, our 4<sup>th</sup> century CE patrol ship, was hosted by the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. It lasted from 2 pm to 4.45 pm.

After an introduction to the workshop and the topic of the presentations, the speakers were introduced. In addition, the boat building was placed in the context of the overall project.

In his lecture, Ronald Bockius described the circumstantial evidence that led Mr Höckmann, the excavator of the Mainz *lusoria*, which is the model for our ship, to reconstruct the *lusoria* at about 21.5 m with 30-32 rowers.

In the third lecture, Boris Dreyer outlined the status of the work in progress. The boatbuilding process includes the production of the Roman equipment needed for . The reconstruction process includes the work on the boat itself, of course: Selecting and felling the tree species that were also used on the original, Roman ships (Mainz wrecks). Spruce will be used for the parts of the boat that have not been preserved (i.e. mast, sails, oars). The oak will be felled and transported to Schlungenhof at the Altmühlsee, where the main work site and then, in 2030, also the final location of the *lusoria* will be. The templates for the Danuvina Alacris, which is the name of the new *lusoria*-type boat, have been made according to the optimised lines plan. The latticing of the oak and the erection of the hall at the final construction site are reserved for early 2021.

In the fourth lecture, Timm Weski gave an overview of the components of the Roman ships that are not preserved in our original in Mainz, but can plausibly be added from other contexts at or near the same time. Clear evidence cannot be introduced in all cases, but approximations and possibilities can be pointed out.

## SAVE THE DATES

We hope to be able to finally conduct physical and on-spot activities at our pilot sites in 2021, so look out for the national pilot site activities on our online media or get in touch with our partners in the respective countries.

From 13-19 July 2021, our international summer school with a focus on non-invasive archaeological methods takes place in Viminacium in Serbia.

Our First International Conferences will focus on the historical potential of storytelling along the Roman Danube Limes and take place in Novi Sad, Serbia from 7-9 September 2021.

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