

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 WP T1

Geoprospections on pilot sites

For the investigation and strengthening of selected pilot sites in the eastern Danube region, the Living Danube Limes project has relied on the expertise of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology (LBI ArchPro). The LBI ArchPro uses latest geophysical prospection methods – magnetometry and ground penetrating radar (GPR) - to map archaeological features that are hidden in the ground – all without excavating. These highly sensitive instruments can detect buried structures when their physical properties contrast measurably with their surroundings, such as stone walls and settings, pits, postholes and fireplaces. For the project surveys, the team applied motorised multi-sensor measurement systems; they can cover large areas in a short time and therefore have great potential for the efficient exploration of archaeological landscapes.

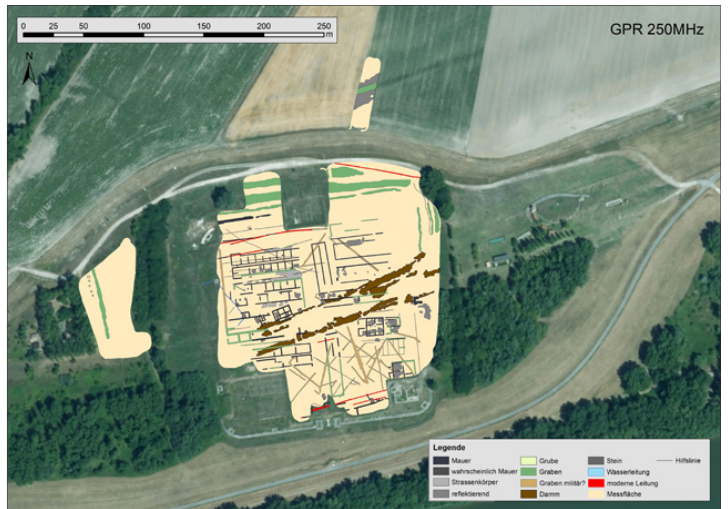


Photos by LBI ArchPro: Archaeological geophysical prospection for the Living Danube Limes project

In autumn 2021 the LBI ArchPro fieldwork team travelled to the pilot sites Iža (Slovakia), Százhalombatta (Hungary), Kopačevo (Croatia), Vidin (Bulgaria) and Sacidava (Romania) to collect geophysical prospection data. The 2D- and 3D-data images were analysed on computer to create digital archaeological maps for each site.

Iža (SK)

The Roman military fortress near Iža (Kelemantia) was once built as a fortified bridgehead for the crossing of the river Danube and with its masonry enclosure occupies a special position within the Limes fortifications. The LBI ArchPro team carried out a motorised GPR survey and documented the entire inner area of the fortress within two days. By combining the high-resolution GPR survey with 500 MHz antennas and deeper penetrating 250 MHz antennas, it was possible to map near-surface - more recent - features in an impressive degree of detail (e.g. a protective dam against the floods of the Danube and the 'guard house') and to detect the remains of the military barracks that are still intact in the deeper-lying areas. In the south-eastern area of the site, it was possible to identify previously unknown details of the Roman buildings.



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

Százhalombatta (HU)

At the Hungarian pilot site Százhalombatta-Dunafüred (Matica) the fieldwork team conducted a GPR survey at the former Roman camp, the bath and vicus. In the area of the vicus several Roman houses – some with stone floor pavements - and adjoining agricultural fields could be observed in the GPR data images. Within the Roman fortress excellent GPR results revealed massive Roman walls, pillars, and buildings which can be assigned to the phase of the camp. The structures show typical ground plans comparable to known Roman building elements such as courtyards, barracks, and granaries.



Photos by LBI ArchPro: Photo left: Setting up the GPR system at Százhalombatta; Photo middle: Survey field in the area of the Roman fortress; Photo right: Interpretation of the GPR data showing Roman building structures.

Kopačevo (HR)

At the Croatian pilot site Kopačevo (Ad Labores) the primary area of interest – the site of the Roman fortress in the village – unfortunately could not be accessed so the team investigated areas around the village and north of the small fortress with the motorized GPR system. Data analysis revealed little evidence of archaeological features in the selected areas, yet the fieldwork was a great opportunity for the LBI ArchPro team to meet the IAHR partners and to discuss possible future collaborations in regard to cultural heritage protection and the archaeological site of Kopačevo.

Vidin (BG)

In Bulgaria, the geophysical prospection survey focussed on the pilot site Vidin (Bononia). As the ancient fortress and city of Bononia is largely covered with modern building structures today the non-invasive fieldwork was limited to park area at Baba Vida fortress close to the Western gate of ancient Bononia. The GPR data mostly revealed more recent construction work; in front of today's museum, several archaeological structures became visible that indicate former walls, including a rectangular building of unknown date.

Sacidava (RO)

At the easternmost point of the LDL geophysical prospection tour, the LBI ArchPro team investigated the Roman fortification Sacidava in Romania. Magnetometer surveys were conducted at the Roman fortress as well as within the early medieval settlement and the Getic fortress to the east of the fortress.

Within the Roman fortress, many detected structures indicated former Roman buildings, the course of former walls and the debris of brick walls and brick roof tiles. Within the early medieval settlement and the Getic fortress, many larger pits might indicate settlement structures, in some cases even pit houses. Interestingly, the test survey on a small area south of the Roman fortress, revealed several rectangular buildings as well as many smaller pits that could be interpreted as graves. Their origin – Roman or from a later period – could not be determined with certainty, however, the promising results encouraged the team to come back for further investigations in the future.



Photos by LBI ArchPro; Photo left: The Croatian project partners of IAHR joining the GPR survey in Kopačevo; Photo middle: GPR survey at Baba Vida in Vidin; Photo right: Beautiful yet challenging survey terrain at the Roman fortress Sacidava.

In November 2021, the LBI ArchPro team had completed fieldwork in five project partner countries. It was a memorable experience that took them on a journey along the Danube Limes, discovering new archaeological sites in beautiful landscapes and meeting local project partners who offered great support and hospitality.

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WP T2

Beginning of connecting cruise in Germany

Two days before the start of the Connecting Cruise on 15 July, we received bad news: due to the low water level in the Danube, the section between Ingolstadt and Kelheim was closed. Despite numerous attempts to obtain a special permit, we had to improvise at short notice. As planned, the Danuvina Alacris was presented to the public, but the boat had to stay on land. A large re-enactment festival was held, with performances by delegations from Legio III and a Bataver cohort. Also present were the Veterae Ciconie with two horses, who joined us several times during the Connecting Cruise.

Then we went to Kelheim, where the boat was craned into the Danube.



Photo right by Margit Schedel; other photos by FAU

The Danuvina Alacris was accompanied by the Fridericana Alexandrina, the replica of an imperial-era patrol boat completed in 2018. Shortly after the start in Kelheim, both boats met up with a third replica, the Regina from the University of Regensburg, like the Danuvina Alacris a replica of a Late Antique Lusoria boat. Together, the three boats

covered about 30 kilometres to Regensburg. The Danube took them past the Teufelsfelsen (Devil's Rock), where a small delegation of us was waiting for them.

In Regensburg we were welcomed by legionaries and invited to a great feast.



Photo left by Mathias Orgeldinger, other photos by FAU

The next day we covered about 30 km again before docking in Pfatter. Up to here we had to struggle with difficult conditions. Apart from the low water, we had hardly any current and constant temperatures between 30 and 40 degrees with a cloudless sky. On the other hand, we could repeatedly enjoy a beautiful view, such as in the case of the Walhalla near Regensburg.

But the biggest challenge was still ahead of us the next day. We had to cover almost 60 km to Stephansposching. We also overcame this challenge thanks to a strong team performance and a relaxing break shortly before the Straubing lock. From the shore, the rowing team was accompanied by a small convoy that provided food and drink during the trip. When we arrived in Stephansposching on 20 July, it was already late afternoon.

Here, however, special circumstances were waiting for us. There was no suitable landing stage, but there was a ferry service between Stephansposching and the opposite Mariaposching. The plan was for the Danuvina Alacris to dock at the side of the ferry. This worked out wonderfully and there was great relief in view of the day's work. However, a little excitement was still ahead. A water rescue boat was driven into the bay next to the boat. A manoeuvre went a bit wrong and this motor boat came into contact with four of our oars, which were still on display. Fortunately, nothing happened to the water rescue boat, but our oars were broken and had to be replaced. Late in the evening, the boat had to be detached from the ferry and brought to the other shore in Mariaposching, where it could spend the night.



Photo left by Mathias Orgeldinger; Photo right: Stephansposching (Photo by FAU)

At each of the seven stops, the crew was welcomed with festivities by the respective city or municipality and the public. On this occasion, we provided information about the project and displayed objects related to Roman antiquity, such as shields. In many cases, we were also able to conduct spectator cruises, where the general public could row with the Danuvina Alacris under our supervision.

In some cases we split up and part of the crew had the opportunity to visit the Roman sites and museums in the hinterland. We always spent the night in a tent, not seldom in an idyllic place near the banks of the Danube. The next day we reached Vilshofen, where we docked near cruise ships and did some spectator cruises. The next day was the last leg of the German part of the Connecting Cruise, namely the route to Passau. First, however, we invited three school classes to become better acquainted with Roman antiquity, which is why we did not continue our journey until noon and did not arrive in

Passau until the evening. Here, the big celebrations followed the next day. Several spectator cruises were lined up, and even the mayor of Passau did not miss the chance to row himself.

On the evening of 23 July we welcomed our Austrian colleagues in Passau. The next morning their adventure started.



Photos by FAU



STATE OF PROGRESS IN WP T3

Visibility measures in partner countries & connected workshops

Germany

The workshop was aimed at stakeholders of the project, especially at the local level and those related to the pilot site, as well as the general public. The aim was to inform about the status of the overall project as well as to initiate a discussion about completed and planned measures related to the pilot site. One focus was the presentation of the "Living Danube Limes VR" app and the discussion on how it could best be implemented for the pilot site.

As a successful presentation, especially of the app, required certain technical prerequisites such as an internet connection, the event could not be completed at the pilot site itself. However, due to previous events the site was present to the stakeholders anyway and was visualised to the rest of the participants with the help of images.



Photos by FAU



The German pilot site, watchtower 14/4 and the small fort at Hinterer Schloßbuck, is already well developed, especially by the Bavarian State Office for the Preservation of Monuments. On-site support is provided for visitors to better visualise the ancient buildings and contexts. A display board is installed on site, which also offers visualisation and provides scientifically sound background knowledge.

In order to sustainably raise awareness of the pilot site, as well as the culture of remembrance of a shared Roman past with a focus on the Limes, FAU's strategy is therefore to hold numerous events with a Roman context in cooperation with local stakeholders. In particular, a connection is to be established between the pilot site in the Burgstallwald forest and the area of the boat building site.

Examples of such events, which have already been held but will continue to be held in the future, are Roman guided tours in the Burgstallwald and in the town of Gunzenhausen, "Rowing like the Romans" or trying out Roman cuisine. All events are accompanied by Living History elements. Central, of course, was the boat building itself, which basically allowed the public to participate.



Photos by FAU

The presentation of the project and this approach met with general approval. The app was also viewed positively, such as the fact that it is easily accessible and provides an additional, complementary offering to the experience of the Pilot Site and Roman past in general.

At the same time, the workshop participants discovered the potential offered by further development of the app and integration into other apps. It was asked whether the data required for this could be passed on.

As an implementation, it was agreed that a QR to the browser version and to download the app should be provided at the pilot site. Optionally, these QR codes can also be distributed at other locations in Gunzenhausen or on homepages.

For this purpose, two signs with QR codes for the app and the browser version were installed on site. They were placed directly next to the existing info boards. On the one hand, this ensures a good view of the pilot site itself and, on the other hand, the connection between the info board and VR access is directly available. The implementation took place without any problems. The signs were installed at no cost by FAU on 26 June 2022. In addition, the Gunzenhausen Tourist Office is looking into further possibilities to provide access to the Living Danube Limes VR.

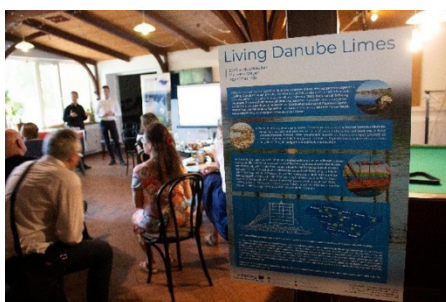


Photos by FAU

Attention was drawn to the problem that apps are no longer accessible as soon as they no longer meet certain standards set by Apple or Google, for example. This problem of aftercare presupposes continuous support, which is also associated with costs beyond the project period.

Hungary

On July 24th, we did several steps to make the Matrica castrum more visible. A visibility workshop was organised on the Hungarian Pilot Site of the Living Danube Limes, from the aspects of archaeology, museology (presentation), tourism issues and the local community's approach to development. The main aim of the Word Café thematical workshop was to find different solutions to make the hidden traces of Matrica auxiliary castrum more visible for the local communities and the wider public and to create a spirit that supports international cooperation along the Limes, the former Roman frontiers, and the realisation of the objectives of the international project in a wider context. At the different tables, different local stakeholders and experts have discussed as well as guests from several cities along the Danube – from Baja and Dunaújváros. The workshop is an accredited event of Hungarian Chamber of Architects, therefore credits could be received for participation. The workshop has been organised close at the harbour, where reconstructed lusoria will stop during the Connecting Cruise between 15-18. August. For the detailed programme, see: <https://www.mut.hu/?module=news&action=getfile&aid=46129>



Photos by BME

During the workshop, the Virtual Reconstruction of the Roman Bath near the Hungarian Pilot Site, the Matrica castrum of Százhalombatta is visible on the site. The participants of the visibility workshop local stakeholders, experts and representative guests from several cities along the Danube have placed a visibility board on the site of the Roman Bath. On the board, brief information about the history of the building can be read, and the Virtual Reconstruction of the monument can be reached by a QR code as well as the main information of the Living Danube Limes project. Moreover, if the visitors place a piece of paper on the 3D printed board, and colour it, the drawing of the bath can be copied and take to home. As a result of the workshop, the cleaning of the area of the pilot site has begun as well as implementation

information board on the site. It will be ready until the day, when the reconstructed Roman Lusoria vessel, the Danuvina Alacris arrives to the Pilot Site of Hungary, Százhalombatta during the Connecting Cruise.



Photos by BME

After the workshop, a complex exhibition was opened at the 'Matrica' Museum of Százhalombatta related to the Hungarian Pilot Site of Living Danube Limes project. The exhibition gives an insight into the history of the "Matrica" Roman auxiliary camp with archaeological findings that have never been exhibited, the survey fulfilled by LBI Arch Pro and virtual reconstruction of the Roman baths created in the Living Danube Limes project, and conceptual designs for the development of the heritage site by students of architecture and specialised engineers of monument preservation at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. The opening ceremony was organised with the opening speech of the Vice Major of Százhalombatta, the Director of Matrica Museum and Archaeological Park and the Head of Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation of BME, with the participation of the Major of Ercsi, heritage experts, chief architects, professionals, lecturers, students and the citizens of Százhalombatta. In the opening speech, the Director of the Museum, Gabriella T. Németh expressed that 'the Matrica camp has never received such a complex attention as in this occasion'. The exhibition is opened until the end of September.



Photos by BME

Workshop in the course of the International Archaeology Days (Bulgaria)

During the International Archaeology Days, on the 14th of June 2022, CHI organised an educational workshop for young people in the RDL town of Lom, Bulgaria, and a practical demonstration of Roman heritage with interpretation at the Roman Almus castle.

Archaeologists from the Museum in Lom introduced archaeology to the audience, including students, local municipality representatives and NGO's as a discipline where several scientific fields meet. Current studies and the material traces of the Roman civilisation found in Almus were discussed. By enriching the knowledge of the Roman society, the workshop contributed to a better understanding of the ancient RDL world.

Some students suggested to popularize Almus by hand made replicas of Roman heritage as souvenirs for tourists and visitors. Or, write essays on how did Romans live in Almus, based on the stories of the local archaeologists and the repository of the Museum of Lom.

The audience was strongly engaged with issues like protection, conservation, awareness-raising and education about archaeological heritage, considered a significant opportunity for Europeans and a source for identity, openness and

tolerance, preserving at the same time the cultural diversity that characterises Europe. The CHI initiative encouraged open access to Roman culture in Lom.

The CHI event during the 2022 European Days of Archaeology in Lom mobilized the youth and the involved local actors to continue discovery of the treasures of the heritage of Lom.

The practical demonstration on site, made by the archaeologists in Lom helped to raise awareness of the rich Roman heritage but also to unveil the history of the location. Every town and village along Danube in Bulgaria has its own remarkable history dated to antiquity or the Middle Ages and there are always emotions involved during history events.

Second Local Focus Group and Workshop on enhancing the visibility of the Roman Danube Limes in Bulgaria

On 30th of June 2022 National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide” (NTC BG Guide) organized the 2nd local focus group and workshop on enhancing the visibility of the Roman Danube Limes.

The events took place at the Conference Hall of Municipality of Vidin, Bulgaria in synergy with the DANURB+ (Danube Urban Brand) Regional Conference Vidin-Calafat “Creative Danube. Connectivity – the key to overcoming the shrinkage”. The second Living Danube Limes Local Focus Group in Bulgaria was dedicated to the topic “Sustainable protection and tourism”, highlighting the effectiveness of the initiatives to sustainably protect, to valorise the pilot site and to enhance its tourism potentials, to attract more visitors, to make the pilot site more connected to the other pilot sites / the Danube Limes.

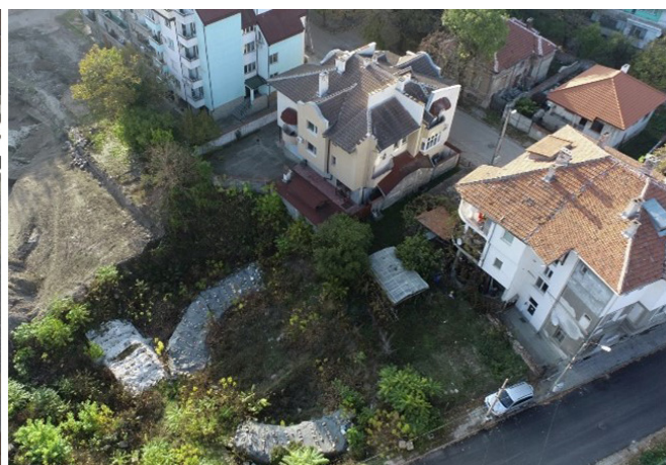
The event started with the presentation of the Living Danube Limes project progress, as well as the possibilities that the project offers in terms of the sustainable protection of the cultural heritage and tourism in connection to Bononia – the pilot site in Bulgaria.

The moderators from NTC BG Guide shared the results of the geoprospection campaigns and of the VR reconstructions for Bononia. They also highlighted the expectation from the creation of the Danube Limes Museum Cluster and its importance in term of boosting collaboration between all the museums along the Danube.

During the focus group, NTC BG Guide and the representatives of the other Bulgarian partners, the Association of the Danube River Municipalities (ADRM) and the Centre for Heritage Interpretation (CHI), reviewed the issues of the sustainable protection of cultural heritage and tourism. Representatives of the ASP – Regional Historical Museum of Vidin took actively part in the discussions.

There was an active interaction from all participants, representing Vidin regional and local authorities, universities and tourist organizations, local cultural centres, etc., as well as participants from Romania, thus turning the local focus group into a regional event.

Participants shared their point of view by giving examples from the cultural heritage management in Bulgaria and Vidin in particular. Some of them pointed out the need of complex measures spreading out from archaeological surveys to socialization of the cultural heritage. It was highlighted that the most pressing issue for the Roman cultural heritage in Vidin is the lack of information signs and the fact that those sites are not accessible for people with disabilities. All participants at the Focus group agreed that the effect of listing Bononia as a part of the World Heritage Site “Frontiers of the Roman Empire” would have a great positive effect in terms of increased visitors and tourists.



Both photos by National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide”; Photo right: Western Gate of the Roman Fortress Bononia, town of Vidin, Bulgaria

The meeting continued with the Workshop on enhancing the visibility of the Roman Danube Limes. The workshop entitled “Bononia – Reviving the past through virtual reconstructions” provided interaction between project partners, associated partners, local authorities, representatives of cultural centers and other local stakeholders in looking for the best possible ways to present the Bulgarian pilot site with the 3D virtual reconstructions already developed within the project.



Photo left: Virtual reconstruction of Bononia (Photo by Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia), Conference-photos middle and left by National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide”

STATE OF PROGRESS IN WPI

Finalisation of ship

In winter 2021/2022 floor plates and futtocks were adjusted. The keel area was vacuumed out and the floor plates and futtocks were oiled with linseed oil. Some of the floor plates had cracks, which were filled with a brown wood tar paste.

Planks were added, initially only every second one. This procedure is called French construction. Especially towards the ends (bow and stern) the planks had to be steamed in a steam box. This was the only way to make the planks flexible enough to take on the boat's diagonal angles. After steaming, the planks were attached to the boat and pressed against the moulds for a few hours to keep this shape.

It is important that the planks fit together well in a carvel manner. Here, delicate work is necessary with regard to the angles of the bevel. With a thickness of 2.5 cm, the planks of the Danuvina Alacris are particularly thin. For comparison: the planks of the reconstruction of an imperial patrol boat, the F.A.N., are 4 cm thick (pine wood).

In the meantime more work was done on the mast, the square spar, the sprit spar and the lateen spar. We also hammered more iron nails through the planks and the floor plates as well as the futtocks.



Photos by FAU; Photo second from right: The finished spars were presented during the third workshop, May 2022

We were also working on the production of oars in the 4.1 m, 4.4 m and 4.7 m categories.

The oars were pre-cut in the various dimensions and then rounded and sanded according to the templates and dimensional specifications. After completion, a protective coating was applied and the markings burnt in. After that, the oars were leathered.

The spars were reconstructed according to the specifications of the old manuals, as they did not exist in the original. The following were made: a mast, a yard, a sprit-spar and then a lateen rod. The respective adjustments took a long time,

especially in the case of the lateen rod, which consists of two parts, an upper and lower spar, which are hafted in the middle.

In parallel, the conception for the painting of the Danuvina Alacris was underway. Some drawings were made. For the crew's shields, the handles were sawn to size, planed and attached to the shield shape by riveting them.

The silhouettes of the later figurative painting were applied to the shields. Then the bosses were hewn and polished. Afterwards the bosses were nailed onto the twenty shields. Either the nails were cramped or riveted on the other side. Work on the boat continued with the addition of the floor plates and futtocks. The last planks in the chine were also added. Then the templates were knocked out and the missing stringers, ribs and bottom frames were inserted for them. Then the last iron nails were hammered in and cranked. Afterwards the longside boards, which stiffen the ship lengthwise were added, namely 3 to starboard and 3 to port. The deck will then rest on the lower beam. The two upper ways are wider and stronger than in the original, as the boat - contrary to historical facts - is often craned and transported on land.



Photos by FAU; Photo left: Two of the finished shields, presented during the watering of the Danuvina Alacris, June 2022

The mast thwart, the nailing board in the stern and the last thwart in the bow were installed. They are continuous and stiffen the boat to the side.

Towards the gunwale, the rubbing strakes on starboard and port were finished. The spacing of the gunwales and the centre aisle are set according to the historical pattern. The seams are caulked and sealed with kit.

The encaustic painting was tested in the months beforehand. The new recipe was improved and implemented on boat.

In the front, a bulwark was constructed over a length of about one metre to catch the spray. The railing was attached to the bulwark and had to be high enough to allow the shields to be fixed behind it so that it could be rowed.

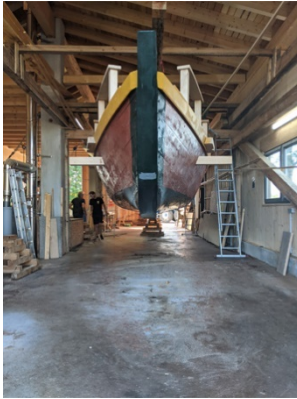
Then the takelage was attached. For this, the blocks and jufferns already made in autumn 2020 were used. Additional ones were made. Some of the takelage was completed after the watering.

On 26 June 2022, the time had finally come. The Danuvina Alacris was able to leave its boatbuilding hall in Schlungenhof. She was transported by heavy load from the hall to the shore of the Altmühlsee, only a few metres away, where a crane was already waiting for her. The crane then hoisted the boat onto the Altmühlsee with the help of a special lifting beam. During this process, the so-called watering, the wood of the boat comes into contact with water for the first time. This water contact is an integral part of the boat-building process. The boat can sink a little during this process, as it is not yet watertight at this point and will fill up with water. The wood swells and expands - only now can the boat become really tight.

However, since there was actually very little water in the boat, it was even possible to dare a first test run, which was not expected. Without any rudders, because they were not mounted yet! However, this type of boat was able to prove that in an emergency it can also work without. If an experienced captain knows how to instruct his rowers accordingly, they can take over the manoeuvring completely. The boat was accompanied by the F.A.N., and in the end both boats arrived safely back in the harbour.

The watering of the boat initiated the final sealing process of the planks. Final work followed. Three rudders were completed, for port and starboard and one as a replacement, were finished, including the suspension. The inserts of the cleats were fixed to the rubbing strake in accordance with the rudder angles. The rudders were attached to the boat.

Floorboards were installed in the boat, as well as a running floor at the bow and stern. A railing was also installed. On 15 July, the Danuvina Alacris was presented to the public in Ingolstadt in fully operational condition and the Connecting Cruise began.



Photos left and right by FAU; Photo middle: Mathias Orgeldinger

REPORT ON LIVING DANUBE LIMES ACTIVITIES

Roman Danube Limes Day

Letter from Matrica – Roman Danube Limes Day in Százhalombatta, Hungary

On July 25th, the visitors of the Archaeological Park of Százhalombatta could taste the spirit of the Roman era. Within the public event called ‘Letter from Matrica – Roman Danube Limes Day’, the Roman heritage of Matrica was highlighted which is hardly known among locals as it is slightly visible on its spot. During the event, we presented roman gastronomy and roman tools for measuring (e.g. a „groma“). Besides, roman reenactors – members of Legio Leonum Valentiniani were invited who present the lifestyle, suits and equipment of the people of an auxiliary camp just as Százhalombatta was in ancient times. The visitors could take part of craft-making programs (e.g. stamp making of Matrica according to a stamped brick excavated in Százhalombatta), a concert and a venue where the main aspects of the project were exhibited, the new visibility measures of the roman bath (VR reconstruction, 3D printed tool) the Roman vessel called Danuvina Alacris, and the upcoming Connecting Cruise was promoted. The participants of the programme could taste “Matius’ dinner” prepared according to a traditional Roman recipe. The event was connected with the Night of The Museums programme, that provided more, nationwide visibility for the event.



Photos by BME

Roman Danube Limes Days in Bulgaria

ADRM marked the Roman Danube Limes days with a Roman re-enactment of Legio I Italica, part of the program of the Festival of Senses "Danube Experience", Silistra, 25 - 26 June 2022. It took place at the Danube Public Park in Silistra, the site of the Roman Durostorum.

THE FIRST FESTIVAL OF THE SENSES "DANUBE EXPERIENCE" WAS HELD IN THE DANUBE CITY OF SILISTRA (BG)

The first of its kind Festival of the Senses "DANUBE EXPERIENCE" was held on June 25th and 26th in the Danube Park of Silistra. The event was organized by the Association of Danube River Municipalities "Danube" (ADRM) and was funded by the Foundation "America for Bulgaria" ("Tourism on the Danube" Programme). The Municipality of Silistra was the main partner.

The festival aimed to launch a concept of experience tourism in the Danube region in Bulgaria, which consists of four interconnected elements: cuisine, wine, adventure, culture & history. It was a two-day open-air event and was held in the context of the International Danube Day - June 29th. The event was based on two main principles: exhibition and participation. Thematic corners were arranged as a kind of route, and with the implementation of this event ADRM seeks to promote the multifaceted, but still unknown region around the Danube River in Bulgaria. The first Roman Re-enactment Group in Bulgaria "I Legio Italica" from the city of Svishtov presented a Roman re-enactment on the ruins of the Roman Durostorum. Around 6000 spectators were present during the event.



Photos by ADRM

Danube Limes Days Exhibition at the University of Architecture and Urban Planning Ion Mincu, Romania

The Exhibit organized during the Danube Limes Days (July 20th – July 26th 2022) is a soul project for the UAUIM team and students involved within the other project activities (summer school, research, accessibility projects to the limes sites, etc). The event took place at the University headquarters, where it was allotted a generous space on the first floor, where the paintings and panels made during the trip in the summer of 2021 on the accessibility of sites were placed. Moreover, with the support of the Rasova Mayor's Office, the paintings and panels made for the Museum of Rasova were brought to be exhibited during this large event.

The exhibit also included the projection of various experiences caught on camera during the trips to the Sacidava limes site, using 2 video projectors of high quality. The TV set broadcasted the video information made by the project partners and is set to broadcast live, if the case may be. Such live transmissions include the launch of the Roman Ship Danuvina Alacris, as well as the first „steps” into the water and the beginning of the cruise.

The 3D printer which was acquired through the project printed a new model limes model every day.

The exhibition was open throughout the Danube Limes Days (July 20th – July 26th 2022), with the possibility of keeping it open and available to the public until July 2022.

A few pictures of the exhibition are presented below.



Photos by UAUIM

Danube Limes Day 2022 celebrated in Ungheni City

From June 18 – 24, 2022 the Danube Limes Day within the project “Valorising cultural heritage and fostering sustainable tourism by LIVING the common heritage on the DANUBE LIMES as basis for a Cultural Route, Living Danube Limes” financed within the Danube Transnational Programme was celebrated.

On this occasion, in Ungheni City were carried out various activities aimed to promote and capitalize the cultural heritage of Danube shores. The pupils of Fine Arts Schools „Raisa Cojocaru” have participated at the Outdoor painting workshop „Danube through the eyes of youth from Ungheni”, while the students of Ungheni School of Music have delighted the public with accordeon and quitare songs. The activity were carried out in the „Grigore Vieru” square from Ungheni City. The participants at this activity have the possibility to enjoy good music, to admire pupil’s artworks and to know more about the importance of Danube Limes for the international cultural heritage.

During this periode, also, were organized visits at the Ungheni Museum of History and Ethnography. The visitors have admired the museums exhibits and learnd interesting information about their history. The Museum Director, Mr. Iucal Vasile have presented to the visitors important facts about valuable objects from the museum.

In order to raise awareness and inform the general public about the importance of the Danube Limes for the history and the culture of the people from this space, were elaborated informative materials (press release and poster) and published on Ungheni City Hall web and facebook pages.

2nd Romanian Local Focus Group Event

The 2nd Local Focus Group event in Romania took place online on June 20th, 2022, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Bucharest time.

The event was hosted by INCDT and organized with the support of UAUIM and MINAC (Associated Partner), bringing together representatives from local museums along the Danube, independent visual artists, architects, and representatives of SMEs. 15 participants were present, of which 8 from target groups and 7 from the 2 project partners organizing the meeting.

The topics covered within the event were:

- Living Danube Limes Project progress and how it can contribute to the local development and tourism development in the Danube Region Area – The presentation consists of the detailed description of activities which took place in the reporting period December 2021-Jun 2022 and the research activities carried out by the partners
- Challenges and needs referring to the Danube cruise organized within the project
- Accessibility and attracting tourists – proposals by UAUIM
- Danube Days and the exhibition organized within the UAUIM with and about the Danube limes

Other points of interest of the local focus group event were:

- ways to ensure that the cruise with the Roman ship Danuvina Alacris foreseen in the project will take place efficiently
- ways to ensure the camping and accommodation spaces of the ship's personnel during the cruise, which will take place in Romania in October 2022
- logistics of camping places at Izvoarele and Cernavoda
- accessibility of visitors / tourist groups from the mooring point to the fortress / museum in Rasova
- results reached by both partners – INCDT and UAUIM, which exceed initial expectations and plans
- the exhibition of June 21, 2022 on the ground floor of UAUIM

Overall, the discussions and the solutions proposed were considered satisfactory and further steps to be taken include a follow-up trip along the Romanian bank of the Danube to initiate discussions with potential collaborators for the preparation of the Romanian part of the cruise – accommodation for the ship crew, organization of local events, preparation of Sacidava limes site and Rasova Museum to welcome both visitors and ship.

Next, Ms. Ana Maria Machedon presented what UAUIM has done in recent months. UAUIM coordinated the creation of a catalog on archeological sites, containing information on how Roman sites might have looked, the impact of their reconstructions, ways to make them accessible to visitors, protection structures for excavations at archeological sites, laser reconstructions and lights or towers from which visitors can see the site without visiting it, etc. This task was not initially assigned to UAUIM, but it was completed by them on the basis of all the research carried out both in this project and in other previous research, based on the UAUIM students' work.

This was followed by the presentation of Mr. Dragoş Dordea regarding the exhibit event opening that UAUIM is going to organize on the occasion of the Danube Limes Days (July 20-26, 2022). It will take place at the University, allocating a generous space, where the paintings and panels made during the trip in the summer of 2021 on the accessibility of sites are placed, but also those made for the Museum of Rasova, brought especially from there. Also, there are 2 video projectors that will be projecting the trip, while the TV will transmit the video information made by the project partners, and the 3D printer prints a new model limes model every day. If the launch of the Roman gallery Danuvina Alacris is broadcast live, the TV will broadcast this aspect as well. The exhibition will be open throughout the Danube Limes Days (until the end of the week), and if possible and the University does not need space for anything else, the exhibition will remain available to the public until July 2022.

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FOLLOW-UP REPORTS ON EXTERNAL EVENTS

Symposium "The Ancient Heritage" (Bulgaria)

The symposium was held on 10 June 2022 at Conference Hall "Rectorate" of D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics – Svishtov, Bulgaria, as part of the programme of the XVI "Eagle on the Danube Festival". Maria Tzankova and Boryana Stancheva (ADRM) gave an online talk "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". It presented LDL DTP project; its structure and themes; the Roman boat and connecting cruise/Roman festivals, approach in cultural heritage protection, upcoming event and the participation of the local communities.

Conference "The future of museums – digitalization and other modern opportunities for sustainable development" (Bulgaria)



On 19th of May 2022, CHI attended the national conference "The future of museums - digitalization and other modern opportunities for sustainable development, on invitation of the organizer, the Sofia University. The event gathered representatives of museums, private collectors, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of e-Government, the Ministry of Innovation and the Growth, businesses and NGO sector.

The expectations for the development of the museum work in tactical, strategic and functional aspects were discussed at the meeting, as well as the approaches to building effective digital collections and virtual museums. Implementation of the European cohesion policies at a national and community level, enhancing the

impact of investment in science and research, developing integrated research and innovation in various scientific fields, related to heritage, was in focus. Introduction of new technologies and innovative content for the CCIs for the market

uptake of cultural tourism, etc., as well as the design of a new vision for economizing the cultural heritage were topics of discussion as well. Also - provision of alternative opportunities for public access to knowledge, information and services through cloud technologies.

CHI introduced the LDL project, its main outcomes and expected effects on employment of living heritage for cultural tourism promotion.

Photo above by CHI

Conferences “Challenges and opportunities of living in shrinking and peripheral cities” and “Creative Danube. Connectivity – the key to overcoming the shrinkage” (Bulgaria)



In synergy with another Danube Programme Transnational Project, namely the DANUrB+ (Danube Urban Brand) project, National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide” promoted and presented the Living Danube Limes achievements and project results in Two regional conferences.

The first one, called Regional Conference “Challenges and opportunities of living in shrinking and peripheral cities”, was held on 10-11 March 2022 in Bucharest (Romania) and in Ruse (Bulgaria). Mrs. Desislava Mincheva-Yordanova from NTC BG Guide presented the topic “Smart tourism solutions in shrinking cities along the Danube in Bulgaria. Mission possible”.

The Living Danube Limes Museum cluster network, as well as the connecting cruise and the mobile application were highlighted as an example of smart tourism solutions along the Danube river.

Photo above by NTC BG Guide



The second Regional Conference dedicated to the “Creative Danube. Connectivity – the key to overcoming the shrinkage” was held on 30th June – 1st July 2022 in Vidin (Bulgaria) and in Calafat (Romania). Mrs. Nouha Ben Salem from NTC BG Guide presented the topic “Route-based Tourism as a Tool for Developing Common Heritage Destinations in Shrinking Areas” and the Danube Limes Cultural Route was highlighted as an example and was outlined with some proposals.

Photo above by NTC BG Guide

SAVE THE DATE

From 8 to 9 November, our final project conference will take place in Sofia (Bulgaria). Under the title "Danube Limes as a Sustainable Brand Destination", various project contents and perspectives for a further development of the Danube region based on its Roman heritage will be presented. Further information on this will be announced promptly via our channels.

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