

IRON

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AGE DANUBE ROUTE

MAGAZINE



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IADR
Protect
our
common
heritage

FOLLOW
THE
ROUTE
Become
a part of
our joint
narrative



Situlae Festival in Novo mesto
Boštjan Pucelj
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Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
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The illyrian helmet
found in the mound no. 1.
at Zakotorac in 2020.
Photo: Domagoj Perkić

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Throughout history, human curiosity has fuelled an unyielding fascination with uncovering the memories of our ancestors and their everyday lives. According to the written sources, travellers from the earliest times were interested in the monuments of the past. During their travels, they made a series of notes on the ruins and landscape elements that were dominant mementoes in the landscape. In ancient times, humans were fascinated by and revered artefacts and monuments of other cultures. This interest led to the expansion of gathering antiquities during the Middle Ages. The acquisition of treasures from these ancient times has given rise to today's museum collections, which form the foundation of our museum repertoires today. Besides the intensive collection of antique relics and excavations, the more accurate historical identification, reconstruction and restoration of these remains began during the 18th century. At that time, there was already an international debate about which elements of the then-known cultural heritage should be considered a role model for the present era. There was a revival of travel; expeditions were organized to study and draw ancient monuments and, later, with the purpose to collect remnants of ancient times. However, at the heart of all this is a deep human curiosity and awe for monumental structures created by our ancestors, the breath-taking fortifications in the landscape, and enigmatic burial mounds. The Iron Age Danube Route wants to bring this experience back to you, dear Reader.

The Iron Age can be considered one of the first attempts to unite certain European territories. During this prehistoric

period, people exchanged goods, ideas, knowledge, and technologies, started and resolved conflicts, migrated, and interacted with other groups beyond Europe's established transnational networks, becoming part of a bigger European cultural phenomenon.

In the upcoming pages, we aim to inspire travellers who want to savour the details of their experiences and ensure that short trips and visits to exhibitions are just as much a part of their plans as longer tours of the spectacular landscape. The Iron Age Stories bring you tales about treasures of Iron Age lords, or you can explore the compelling account of the theft of a Negova helmet from Novo mesto. You can read about the latest amazing findings from Pelješac Peninsula, Croatia, where an outstanding, well-preserved Greco-Illyrian helmet dating back over 2,500 years came to light near the village of Zakotorac.

A delightful possibility is to spend an evening immersing yourself in the culinary delights of the Iron Age. You can experience antiquity with all your senses and read about Celtic beverages from the Heuneburg.

If you are travelling there, take advantage of the opportunity to try reinterpreted versions of more than two-thousand-year-old beers available to museum visitors.

Surfing the pages further, you and your children can explore how young people lived during that period and hear about the Ormož Rattle, including its sound from the past. We offer several events, days, and festivals to immerse yourself in the Iron Age. You might want to save the dates to meet with us somewhere in Novo mesto, Kaptol, Jesenice, Sopron, Graz, Heuneburg, Ruse, Vienna, Bucharest or Budapest: we promise you will not be disappointed!

"The best education for intelligent people is travelling," stated Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. So, after reading this magazine, embark on a journey through time and space and explore our common heritage. Immerse yourself in a delightful learning experience along the Iron Age Danube Route!

Szilvia Fábán
president of IADRA



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Szilvia Fábán', written in a cursive style.

THE RISE OF



A panoramic view of Budapest, Hungary, taken from Gellért Hill. The foreground is filled with lush green trees and a stone wall with a metal railing. In the middle ground, the city's architecture is visible, including the Hungarian National Museum with its prominent dome. The Danube River flows through the city, with several bridges crossing it. The background shows a clear blue sky and the distant city skyline.

ARCHAEO- TOURISM

Panoramic view
from the Celtic oppidum
at the Gellért Hill
(photo: Gy. László,
Hungarian National Museum)

by Szabolcs Czifra

Archaeotourism, an evolving facet of cultural tourism, has carved a niche for itself by transforming the way people travel and interact with ancient cultures. Central to this renewal are outstanding remains of human history, especially in Egypt, the Near East, India, and the Americas, some of which are listed as World Heritage Sites. Nevertheless, the Danube region also has excellent potential as a treasure trove of heritage trails and archaeological sites where past and present merge. This form of tourism offers a deep dive into history and propels local communities' economic and cultural preservation, especially in rural areas. It emphasises the significance of heritage interpretation and archaeological heritage management bound to landscapes, underscoring these elements' pivotal role in enhancing the preservation of archaeological remains, locals' well-being, and visitor experience while mitigating tourism impacts.

Participants of the Iron Age fashion show at Kaptol (photo: TZ Zlatni Papuk, Velika) © TZ Zlatni Papuk



The Danube region has seen a notable increase in the number of visitors driven by its rich cultural and historical offerings. The emerging trend of cruising, hiking, and cycling tourism in many countries highlights the regions' appeal. The introduction of new themes and archaeological sites into the wide range of cultural tourism attractions, including historical sites, museums, art galleries, festivals, performances, culinary experiences, and heritage tours, is forecasted to boost visitor numbers further, catering not only to older people but also attempting to attract younger generations.

In our region, archaeotourism, as a unique form of cultural tourism, still needs to be recognised as an independent leisure activity. Nevertheless, it has developed into a specific discipline with a rich theoretical background and dedicated conferences and fairs in recent decades. We can classify existing archaeology-based core offers into several types: archaeological sites, monuments, parks, museums, open-air museums, exhibition places, trails, routes, guided tours, living history and experimental archaeology events, archaeological excavations and other activities open to the public.

Several sites have been known and visited in the Danube region since the early 20th century, and even though managers of the archaeological sites recognise the advantages of growing interest in the human past and cultures, most locations still do not

A young girl wearing a reconstructed prehistoric costume (photo: TZ Zlatni Papuk, Velika)



Visitors in the Százhalombatta open-air archaeological park (photo: Sz. Czifra, Hungarian National Museum)



fully exploit the potential of networking and territorial-based tourism product development. Currently, most accessible and interpreted archaeological sites are associated with the Roman and medieval periods, while prehistoric heritage is somewhat understated in the region. However, some lovely examples of exhibition places and indoor and open-air museums are established on sites, where we can discover early hominids, Neolithic and Bronze Age pile dwellings around the Alps, reconstructed Bronze Age settlements or Iron Age burial mounds. Furthermore, some of these archaeological locations are listed as World Heritage sites, ranging from prehistory to late medieval times. Delightfully, there are Iron Age sites in this distinguished group, such as the Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape and the Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak and Sveshtari. These outstanding elements of our colourful archaeological heritage show best practices for establishing an integrated archaeotourism package, which, beyond the core products, encompasses general tourism facilities and services better to satisfy the needs and demands of the visitors. Based on a worldwide analysis of travellers, archaeo-



Cooking on the Halštatski dani Festival
(photo: TZ Zlatni Papuk, Velika)

tourists' essential characteristic is the desire to understand past cultures; they seek informational and educational elements of the tourism product. Furthermore, even if they want independence while travelling, they demand high-quality experiences integrated into a comprehensive service. This means that visitors can choose from different kinds of tours and excursions and information about transportation and accommodation facilities, events, sports, nightlife, nearby beaches, culinary services, and other local providers. Understanding tourists' motivation helps to shape the whole experience in such a way as to satisfy their needs and the market demand better. Ultimately, this will strengthen stakeholder cooperation and help improve local infrastructure and economy.

Recent project-based initiatives in the Danube region have leveraged its rich archaeological and cultural heritage to create new narratives and tourism products. Some cooperations focused on Roman heritage (ISTER, Living Danube Limes), whilst others dealt with prehistory or a more comprehensive period (Iron Age Danube, ArcheoDanube, ArcheON, Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes), providing examples of how cultural and natural heritage are being integrated into tourist offers in rural or urban areas, enhancing the visibility and accessibility of the region's diverse attractions. These initiatives were supported by a network of stakeholders, including museums, universities, municipalities, other public organisations and cultural NGOs, who collaborate to preserve and promote the Danube's heritage, ensuring its sustainable integration into the tourism sector through new or revitalised visitor centres, archaeological parks or trails often located in rural areas. Establishing transnational clusters of museums and visitor centres, combined with the involvement of historical re-enactment groups and local communities, plays a pivotal role in the sustainable, eco-friendly protection of cultural heritage.

We are witnessing a significant transformation in cultural tourism, driven by integrating single sites into theme-based networks and new routes. Choosing archaeology as a theme is a unique approach, even on a European scale; accordingly, the Iron Age Danube Route has few direct competitors on the market. In addition to already elaborated themes and sites, Iron Age archaeology offers a solid ground to coin new narratives to unveil exceptional archaeological heritage for local and regional stakeholders responsible for economic development. These routes, supported by a vast network of museums with archaeological collections, aim to enhance the region's tourist offerings through new narratives and long-term cross-promotion campaigns. Furthermore, the focus on sustainability, authenticity, and quality certification schemes, such as the international Green Destinations or Heriterra Certificate, or national initiatives like the Authentic Bulgaria Quality Mark, underscores a trend towards high-value, sustainability-sensitive tourism. This approach not only strengthens the competitiveness of local tourism service providers but also promotes cultural ties and institutional collaboration in the region.

Archaeological heritage is largely hidden underground; even where remains are preserved above the surface, some elements may still be hardly recognisable due to vegetation. The advent



Exploring archaeological heritage via Virtual Reality (photo: Hungarian National Museum)

of new immersive technologies, including Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR), is revolutionising the way archaeological heritage is visualised and presented to the public. These technologies enable the presentation of archaeological knowledge in new, attractive ways, encouraging users to explore impressive archaeological heritage within the confines of museum exhibitions and the landscapes from which they originate. Projects like the ArcheON, CyArk, Danube's Archaeological eLandscapes or VirtualArch led the charge by developing models for the sustainable integration of these digital technologies in the presentation and protection of underground or submerged archaeological sites, some with global importance as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Digitalisation empowers access to archaeological heritage and helps promote and present gathered scientific knowledge in attractive ways, especially by using



The blacksmith forges an iron object (Boštjan Pucelj © Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto)



© TZ Zlatni Papuli



fashionable social media platforms. The digital visibility of archaeological heritage is firmly bound to storytelling, an approach very familiar to all of us. Nevertheless, we can always skill up our method with Europeana's seven tips: be personal, be informal but expert, tell hidden stories, illustrate your points, signpost your journey, and be specific and evocative. Community involvement is generally seen as a cornerstone of sustainable archaeotourism. In addition to other external factors (such as politics, economy, technological, legal, and environmental aspects) that impact the long-term management of archaeological attractions and tourism development, the projects cited above have shown the importance of the social aspect. This is one of the main pillars of the European Cultural Heritage Strategy for the 21st century. As it has been demonstrated elsewhere, cultural (and archaeological) heritage can improve life quality by contributing to people's well-being. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that we have to make heritage more accessible, promote it as a meeting place

Youth program
in the Hungarian National Museum
(photo: Szabolcs Czifra,
Hungarian National Museum)

and vehicle of intercultural dialogues, and encourage the active involvement of locals in heritage management. The Tourism 4.0 project in Slovenia showcased how the digitalisation of cultural assets can contribute to the well-being of locals and reshape tourism trends on the national level.

Furthermore, marketing archaeological heritage can significantly shape a region's image. At the moment, archaeology is still manifested mainly in traditional ways in museums, themed days, archaeological parks, and festivals. Accordingly, replicas of archaeological artefacts are the priority when speaking about direct marketing. However, there are other reasonable solutions worth knowing and following. Novo mesto in Slovenia gives an astonishing example of using archaeology to rebrand a town's image, decorate a hostel with scenes inspired by Iron Age art, or create a new city festival that attracts many tourists. This event offers visitors an all-day experience with various attractions, including music, gastronomy, and crafts. Similar short festival-like events are organised elsewhere in the surrounding countries, e.g. in Hungary (Sopron – Celtic days), Croatia (Kaptol – Hallstatt days), and Bulgaria (Kazanlak – Thracian festivities), which promote rich Iron Age heritage, and, in addition to locals, attract foreign visitors as well. Branding local products using archaeology is a known path for companies with their seats around Kaptol in Croatia, either evoking ancient Greek and Iron Age cuisine by a local restaurant or nurturing tradition in a modern way through branding premium alcoholic products. The combination of knowledge, creativity and persistence has already been granted several awards.

Throughout this exploration of archaeotourism in the Danube region, we have delved into the intricate tapestry that weaves together the preservation of cultural heritage with the burgeoning industry of slow tourism. The emphasis on collaboration among stakeholders—spanning local communities, governments, public institutions, and private entities—underscores the collective endeavour to nurture and promote the rich archaeological legacy of the Danube.

As the region stands on the cusp of a new era, the shared vision of its stakeholders for fostering cultural tourism is poised to redefine the tourism landscape—encouraging more profound, more meaningful interactions with our past while ensuring economic and environmental sustainability. This collective journey, encouraged by the dual objectives of conservation and accessible engagement, sets a precedent for regions worldwide to emulate. Thus, the future of archaeotourism in the Danube region represents not just a continuation of its storied past but a beacon of innovation, community involvement, and sustainable development in tourism.



Situlae Festival in Novo mesto
Boštjan Pucelj
© Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto



Situlae Festival
in Novo mesto
Boštjan Pucelj
© Dolnjiški muzej
Novo mesto

THE IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE

OUR
FIRST
FOUR YEARS

When we embarked on this journey in 2020, not even the greatest optimists among us could have predicted that in a short period of four years the Iron Age Danube Route would develop into a network stretching across eight countries and counting 44 members.

The foundation of the Iron Age Danube Route was laid in the DTP Interreg project “Monumentalised Early Iron Age Landscapes in the Danube River Basin” (Iron-Age-Danube). The project focused on monumental archaeological landscapes of the Early Iron Age, characterised, for example, by fortified hilltop settlements and large burial mound (tumuli) cemeteries, from the era between the 9th and the 4th centuries BC.

The partners shared a vision of joint approaches to research, management and protection of complex (pre)historic landscapes and their integration into sustainable tourism flows, with the ultimate aim to create added value to the, often ru-

ral, communities Iron Age heritage is immersed in.

After the project ended, the partners were encouraged to develop a new transnational cultural route with the support of the Routes4U project of the European Council.

Compiling existing sources of knowledge and creating a strong interdisciplinary and international network of expert institutions from Austria, Croatia, Hungary, and Slovenia in the fields of archaeology, cultural heritage protection, tourism, as well as local stakeholders, the Iron Age Danube Route Association was founded in June 2020 with the aim of creating a platform where our members, operators of heritage sites, researchers, creative entrepreneurs, tourist operators, and public authorities would have an opportunity to network, share good practices, learn from global trends and developments, and access knowledge on cultural heritage and tourism management tools and methods.





Our joint efforts were recognised in May 2021, when the Iron Age Danube Route became a certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. The certification “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” is a quality label, recognised across Europe by visitors, tourism operators, and public authorities alike. The certification led to greater recognition and opportunities for the Iron Age Danube Route to develop membership, secure project funding, and increase visitor numbers throughout network member countries.

Being a certified Cultural Route of the Council of Europe brought us more visibility, both nationally and internationally, and gave access to a wide pool of international partners and experts in heritage management, research, cultural tourism development, and promotion.

Strongly boosted by receiving the Council of Europe’s certification, we continued to spread and strengthen our network across European countries, to co-organise popular re-enactment events with our members (such as the Situlae Festival



Workshop for children
Situlae Festival in Novo mesto
Boštjan Pucelj
© Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto



in Novo mesto and the Hallstatt Days in Kaptol), co-organise scientific conferences and new programmes for the youth, as well as developing new cultural tourism products.

So, this is where you find us in 2024: although aware that there is much to do, still thoroughly dedicated to raising awareness

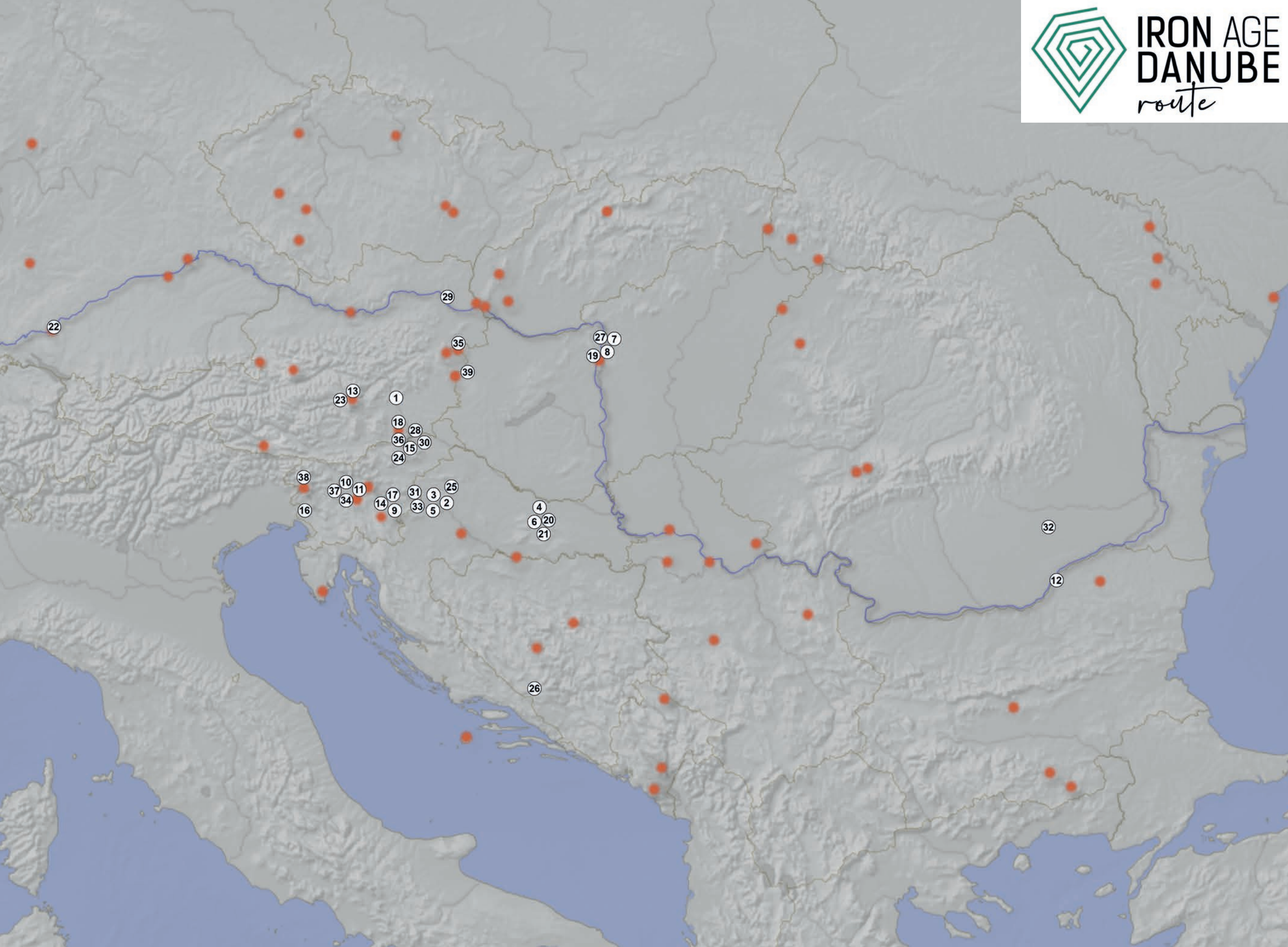
of the Iron Age heritage, its presentation, promotion, research, and sustainable management, to our members and stakeholders and the public, without whose support our efforts would be largely in vain.

We can only hope that the next four years will be as productive and rewarding as these last four have been!

IADRA partners

- 1 Universalmuseum Joanneum, Archaeology Museum at Castle Eggenberg
- 2 Archaeological Museum in Zagreb
- 3 Centre for Prehistoric Research
- 4 Municipality of Kaptol
- 5 University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Archaeology
- 6 Papuk Nature Park, Unesco Geopark Papuk
- 7 Archaeolingua Foundation
- 8 Hungarian National Museum
- 9 Dolenjska Museum
- 10 National Museum of Slovenia
- 11 Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia
- 12 Rouse Regional Museum of History
- 13 Museum Murtal
- 14 Zavod Situla - Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Culture
- 15 Municipality of Hoče-Slivnica
- 16 Institute Beautiful Karst
- 17 Municipality of Novo mesto
- 18 Großklein Municipality with hamuG (Hallstatt Museum in Großklein)
- 19 Banner János Archaeological Foundation
- 20 Požega-Slavonia County Tourist Board
- 21 Zlatni Papuk Tourist Board
- 22 Municipality of Herberlingen
- 23 Neumarkter Hochtal Historical Working Group
- 24 Municipality of Zreče
- 25 Sveti Ivan Zelina Museum
- 26 Municipality of Posušje
- 27 Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Architecture
- 28 Regional Museum Maribor
- 29 Natural History Museum Vienna, Department of Prehistory
- 30 University of Maribor, Botanic Garden
- 31 Posavje Museum Brežice
- 32 National History Museum of Romania
- 33 Žumberak-Samobor Hills Nature Park
- 34 University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts
- 35 Sopron Museum
- 36 Guild of Blacksmiths of Slovenia
- 37 Fran Govekar Association Ig
- 38 SVITAR - Institute for Space Design, History and Art
- 39 Savaria Museum

 POTENTIAL DESTINATIONS OF THE IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE



FOLLOW





THE ROUTE

HUNGARY



Savaria Museum

9700 Szombathely, Kisfaludy Sándor u. 9.
Telephone: +36 94/500-720, 94/501-948
www.savariamuseum.hu

The 'Palace of Culture', which is now home to the Savaria Museum, opened to the public in 1908. Today, the Savaria Museum holds about half a million items in its collections of archaeology, ethnography, history, and natural sciences. One section enjoying international recognition is the archaeological treasures, boasting remarkable finds the present-day village of Sé dating back to prehistoric times, from the Iron Age fortress at Velem, and the Roman city of Savaria (now Szombathely). The Museum also has Central Europe's largest palaeobotanical collection and holds one of the country's exceptional plant and insect collections.

The Museum's history collection illustrates the past of Vas County over several centuries. The finest items speak about craftsmanship in the 1600s and show what life was like during the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy; besides, there are objects on display related to the transition into democracy in the early 1990s.

The upstairs halls of the Museum offer a permanent exhibition, entitled Changing Cultures in a Changing Land, which demonstrates archaeology, geology, and the prehistory of Western Transdanubia and Vas County in particular. The Roman past of Szombathely is displayed in an interactive exhibition: 'Savaria – A Roman Town by the Amber Road (1st–4th century AD)'. The other rooms show the archaeological remains of the Huns, the Avars, the Germanic tribes, and the land-taking Hungarians who lived in the area in the early medieval period. The basement of the building is a lapidary.

The Museum awaits visitors with several exhibitions with artefacts from different historical periods from prehistory to present day, e.g., the famous gold diadem and treasure from Velem, the 2,600-2,700-year-old clay altar from the Early Iron Age, or the silicified tree trunk with wood opal from Csád Hill (Vas County, Hungary). The Museum offers visitors a variety of temporary exhibitions and other events. These include activities for school groups, kindergarten pupils, and adults.



SLOVENIA



Svitar Institute for Spatial Design, History and Art

Bazoviška 9, 5220 Tolmin, Slovenia
www.svitar.si

The Svitar Institute for Spatial Design, History and Art is a private association in the public interest in the field of culture. The institute's mission is to develop an innovative, sustainable, and attractive live interpretation of heritage. Through its programmes, it promotes the excellence of cultural heritage, revives castle and archaeological sites, and creates quality tourist products.

Under the leadership of Bojana Čibej, a landscape architect, singer, and heritage interpreter, Svitar builds heritage interpretation using the archaeological and historical data and many inclusive interpretive methods and tools from the field of art, science, crafts, sports, and psychology. Following European and UNESCO standards, it perceives the interpretation of heritage as a carrier of human values. Therefore, it pursues the goal of awakening personal meanings in visitors by concluding a strong experiential bond between the interpreter, the heritage, and the visitor.

The institute's biggest current programme is the revival of medieval Rihemberk Castle. Combining the fascinating medieval architecture and the colourful interpretation into a successful heritage story under the brand 'Igre plemstva' (Noble games) brought Svitar a title of BIG SEE Tourism Design Award Winner in 2023.

For the last 8 years, Svitar has been collaborating with Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto in the joint creation of the Situlae Festival of Iron Age life and culinary arts. Svitar's pleasant tasks include writing the scripts of the main events, coordinating the local association members participating in the main event, and reconstructing musical instruments from the situlae, and playing music.



IADRA Election 2024

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Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



Almost four years after the Iron Age Danube Route Association (IADRA) was established, the first re-election of its management took place in February this year. The seven-member board for 2024 to 2028 was elected by secret ballot by the representatives of the ordinary members. Hungary had the honour of having Dr Szilvia Fábíán (Hungarian National Museum) elected as President of the Iron Age Danube Route Association, which coordinates the conservation, scientific research, and promotion of the archaeological heritage of the Danube region at the international level. Dr Hrvoje Potrebica (University of Zagreb, Centre for Prehistoric Research, Croatia) takes over the position of Vice-President for the next period. Marta Rakvin (Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, Croatia) will continue to act as Secretary of the Association, while Dr Jacqueline Balen (Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, Croatia), Katalin Wollák (Archaeolingua Foundation, Budapest, Hungary), Karl Peitler (Universalmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria), and Petra Stipančič (Dolenjski Muzej, Novo mesto, Slovenia) have been re-elected to the Board. The Association has invited Sanjin Mihelić (Arts and Craft Museum, Zagreb, Croatia), former President of IADRA, to become an Honorary Member and continue to support the work of the new Board with his experience. The new Management Board's primary purpose is to bring the IADR to a higher level, consolidate the existing members, and provide new tools and opportunities for the partners. Our priority is to intensify communication between our stakeholders to ensure that all partners can participate in the activities related to the Route and add value to it by using their specific skills and experience. To strengthen IADRA development and achieve all these goals, three committees (Scientific, Communication, and Tourism) have been established.

SZ. F.

New Skills for New Times –
Capacity building projects
in the Iron Age Danube Route

During recent years, we have witnessed the emergence of new cultural heritage reconstructions and presentations using digital technologies (such as virtual and augmented reality, different gamification tools, etc). New technologies are vital for creating new engaging and effective ways of awareness-raising and promoting the cultural heritage of a region with the long-term consequences of attracting more visitors and creating added value to the local communities by integrating it into wider cultural tourism flows.

However, the development processes of such reconstructions and presentations are not always an easy task, as they involve close collaboration between experts with very different backgrounds. As they are not given tools for the professional update needed to keep pace with a constantly changing and competitive market, heritage experts often lack digital and transversal skills, especially in the field of technological innovation.

To tackle this problem, the Iron Age Danube Route has turned to upskilling the (digital) competencies of its staff through the Erasmus+ projects.

The *NEXT ROUTES- Upskilling of staff through digital, creative gamification and innovative strategies for the enhancement of EU Cultural Routes* project, funded by the EU Erasmus+ programme, focuses on an innovative approach to heritage management. During the project

Visit to the new rock art destination in Cantabrian mountains (Spain), ROUTES4ROUTES project © IADR





ROUTES4ROUTES project, Participants of the *Rock Art news in the framework of the Southwest of Europe, Archaeology and speleology activities as boosters of a new Tourism Seminar* in Arredondo (Spain) © PRAT

(September 2023 – September 2025), diverse groups of activities will be to reinforce Cultural Routes staff skills and knowledge related to digital and creative competencies, support Cultural Routes in the digital transition, and help them manage and disseminate Cultural Routes contents in an engaging and effective way by promoting their cultural heritage through innovative gamification approaches.

In this way, the project promotes priorities of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, which are perfectly aligned with the horizontal priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme: cooperation in research and development, enhancement of European memory, history and heritage, as well as promoting the social and educational value of Europe's cultural heritage.

The project partnership, consisting of 8 partners from 6 countries and led by the Phoenician's Route, brings together Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (the Phoenicians' Route (Italy), the European Route of Jewish Heritage (Luxemburg), the European Mozart Ways (Austria), the Routes of the Olive Tree (Greece), the ATRIUM – Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th Century In Europe's Urban Memory (Italy) and the Iron Age Danube Route (Croatia) with the Mobile Idea Srl (Italy), which is one of the leading private companies in the EU specialized in technological innovation applied to the cultural and tourism sector, and the Breda University of Applied Sciences (the Netherlands).

The partnership is currently working on fulfilling the three main aims of the project: a training methodology to guide the staff of the cultural routes in updating their digital and creative skills, an interactive platform, which will incorporate gamification applications for user

involvement, and a user manual, a step-by-step guide created by this project that could be used by other cultural routes.

On the other hand, The Iron Age Danube Route also aims to learn from its peers, i.e. more experienced cultural routes of the Council of Europe. To this end, the IADR had implemented an Erasmus+ funded short-term project for mobility of learners and staff *ROUTES4ROUTES - Exchange of Good Practices between Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe*. In May 2024, members of the Iron Age Danube Route were hosted by the Prehistoric Rock Art Trails, cultural route of the Council of Europe, in Santander, Spain. During the five-day job-shadowing activates, the IADR team, was introduced to the PRAT's their daily work, particularly in respect of their involvement in managing archaeological cultural heritage sites (Altamira and the Caves

of Monte Castillo) in the area and collaboration with important cultural heritage institutions (Altamira Museum). The team was presented with the joint work with PRAT's partners from France, Spain and Portugal in organization of the international seminar for partners and stakeholders *"Rock Art news in the framework of the Southwest of Europe, Archaeology and speleology activities as boosters of a new Tourism"* (held in Arredondo). The team was, also, presented and with two new rock art destinations (near the village of Arredondo) that are in process of being opened to the public and acquainted with the process.

The main outcomes of this visit were that the IADR team became more aware of various models and tools that can be used to better connect the route with the community's archaeological heritage and how to raise its visibility. By gaining new insights about good practices used by our host institution, the IADR will be able to develop more attractive programmes, trainings, and activities in the future.

The crowning event of the ROUTES4ROUTES project was signing of the collaboration agreement between the Prehistoric Rock Art Trails and the Iron Age Danube Route, which will entice and ensure future cooperation between our two cultural routes dealing with archaeological cultural heritage.

M. R.

NEXT ROUTES project partners on a Meeting in Breda (The Netherlands) © IADR



Legendary Landscapes – Experience History in the Neumarkt High Valley

The Neumarkter Hochtal Historical Working Group (HistAK) launched the LEADER project ‘Legendary Landscapes’ in February this year. This innovative project combines archaeological and historical sites with regional legends and integrates them into the millennia-old cultural landscape between Zirbitzkogel and Grebenzen in Upper Styria.

Several cultural trails are being created as part of the project, which offer exciting insights into the rich history and legends of the region in addition to the charming landscape experience. A digital app points the way to special places and invites you to explore.

With the free ‘Legendary Landscapes’ App, you can discover and explore traces of the past. Archaeological and historical sites, such as an excavated burial mound from the Hallstatt period, or a hidden Roman village, are brought to life through digital reconstructions (AR). Interesting information can be accessed via short films, photos and texts. Audio files convey the legends at their original locations. A separate quiz module offers exciting and varied tasks for children and adults, and invites them to actively participate.

The app (for iOS and Android) will be available in two languages (German and English) from summer 2025. In a further step, the cultural trails will be brought to life with cultural events. The aim of ‘Legendary Landscapes’ is not only to bring history to life, but also to document the region’s historical and archaeological heritage and preserve knowledge for future generations.

C. F.

New hiking app, which also provides historical and archaeological information
© HistAK Neumarkt



Getic center under modern town of Rousse



Zoomorphous lid found at the excavation
© Rousse Museum

The Roman fortress Sexaginta Prista is situated on a hill in the central part of modern Ruse, on the right bank of the Danube, at the mouth of the Rusenski Lom River. Excavations conducted between 1976 and 1978 unearthed parts of the northwestern fortification system. Subsequent rescue excavations in the central and southern sections of the fortress, carried out from 2005 to 2024, revealed that the earliest traces of habitation include hundreds of pits, dated from the 2nd/1st century BC to the 1st century AD.

Surveys conducted in the 1970s proposed that a Thracian settlement, dating from the 3rd to 1st century BC, lay beneath the Roman fortress. The new excavations confirmed this hypothesis, uncovering one dwelling, 183 pits, 10 fireplaces, 5 kilns, and one eshara from that period. The finds consist mainly of pottery sherds – over 50,000 in total. Approximately 50 ceramic vessels were restored, the most significant being a lid with an eagle head in its upper part. While the majority of the pottery was of local production, some vessels directly imitate Greek originals. Additionally, 65 amphora handles with stamps were found in the pits, originating from Rhodes, Sinope, Heraclea Pontica, Knidos, and featuring local anepigraphic stamps.

The discovery of 35 coins, dating from the 5th century BC to the 1st century AD, is crucial for establishing the site’s chronology. The pits also contained various artifacts, including fibulae, iron knives, an adze, a saw, a ploughshare, arrowheads, bronze bracelets, earrings, pendants, needles, rings, glass beads and bracelets, bone items, stone hones and millstones, spindle whorls and loom weights, T-shaped tools, two roof tiles, and two clay idols.

Despite the abundance of artifacts, only a small number of pits can be precisely dated, primarily to the 2nd–1st century BC. One pit is definitively dated to the late 3rd–first half of the 2nd century BC, and three pits are dated to the 1st century AD.

v. v.

Iron Age research in the HNM National Institute of Archaeology (NIA)



Field-survey in N Hungary
(photo: Zita Hrabák,
Hungarian National Museum)

In 2022, precisely 220 years after the foundation of the Hungarian National Museum, the National Archaeological Institute was established by merging and complementing several existing departments. In addition to the NIA's highly complex and diversified tasks, a Scientific Research Programme has been launched with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary research, several related to Iron Age projects, each under the leadership of different archaeologists. Monumentalised Early Iron Age landscapes (including traces of settlements and burial mounds) are being investigated in several microregions in West Hungary. Using modern, natural scientific methods, these programmes explore the cultural landscape created around Iron Age fortified settlements, especially when these monuments were built, what kind of structures they hid and their relationship. Late Iron Age (Celtic) settlements and contemporary cemeteries in other regions are the subject of different projects. Early Iron Age land-use strategies on the Great Hungarian Plain are studied compared to Late Bronze Age structures. Another research programme investigates Middle Iron Age (also known as the Scythian period) settlements of the Great Hungarian Plain and northern mountainous region. Finally, there is an ongoing cooperation with experts from the ELTE FOS Department of Biological Anthropology, focusing on the genetic background and dietary habits of communities with Steppe ancestry.

SZ. CZ.

Life and Afterlife – Novo mesto 3,000 Years Ago



The archaeological exhibition *Life and Afterlife – Novo mesto 3,000 Years Ago* presents the last two centuries of the great Bronze Age: the tenth and ninth centuries BC. The presentation of life and burial rituals is based on archaeological investigations of Novo mesto's two Bronze Age cemeteries, Kapiteljska njiva and Mestne njive, with an emphasis on grave goods, and, to a lesser extent, of the Marof and Šance settlement areas. Our knowledge is complemented by the results of numerous studies carried out during construction of Slovenia's motorway system.

The archaeological material is complemented by numerous drawing reconstructions of depictions of life and funerary customs, as well as interpretations of selected rituals, all of which are presented in the catalogue. The reader learns about the latest research methods, which include the bone remains of the deceased from Late Bronze Age graves, and the presentation of the results of such research. The catalogue also consists of the list of exhibited objects with basic data and photographs.

Exhibition catalogue, design: Maja Rudolf Markovič

P. S.

The Heroic Age of Histri



The catalogue of the exhibition *The Heroic Age of Histri*, was published by the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula, in the edition of Monographs and catalogues no. 39. It is a book accompanying the international exhibition *Histri in Istria*, which took place from 14th December 2023 to 7th April 2024 at the Museum of Antiquities J.J. Winckelmann in Trieste. The catalogue listed 185 artefacts, but a significantly larger number were displayed during the exhibition. The book is opulently illustrated and bilingual in Croatian and Italian. In a classical and convenient approach, the content was edited into 10 chapters. After four prefaces, there is an introductory chapter *Peregrination through the land of Histri*, followed by the chapters *Space and Time* and *Traces and Knowledge*. They provide an overview of geographical features, chronological parameters and the history of research. The chapters *The Settlement and the Home* and *Life and Death* refer to the interpretation of selected sites that were presented in more detail in the exhibition, especially hillforts and necropolises such as Limska gradina, Picugi, Beram and Nesactium. The most significant material culture of Histri is presented in the chapter *Objects and Symbols*. In chronological order, it was interpreted in terms of the significance of Histri within the cultural events of the European Iron Age. Special emphasis is focusing on prestige and luxury objects – from the smallest items of costume and jewellery to the most monumental artistic works, such as stone sculptures. In the conclusion of the book, titled *The Heroic Age of Histri*, the heritage of Histri is interpreted in the millennial cultural-historical context taking into account its position and connection with contemporary cultures and cultural changes. These contributed to the emergence, progressive development, and eventual transition of Histri into a new historical context.

M. B. K.

Forschungen in Schwarzenbach
Die Forschungen in den Jahren
1992–2008



The prehistoric site of Schwarzenbach-Burg (Lower Austria) has been the subject of intensive and interdisciplinary archaeological research for three decades. In the Late Iron Age, a hilltop settlement covering 15 hectares was located on the prominent hill. The hilltop settlement, fortified with a ditch and a palisade wall, was strategically located on the edge of the Oberpullendorf Bay, a Late Iron Age iron mining and smelting centre. According to the research results to date, Schwarzenbach-Burg was an *oppidum* in the late La Tène Period. In addition to the Iron Age, Neolithic and the Bronze Age horizons have been identified on the site. This volume on the research in Schwarzenbach presents the results of the interdisciplinary projects from 1992 to 2008, publishing, in addition to the excavation results, geophysical surveys and scientific analyses.

W. N., I. K.

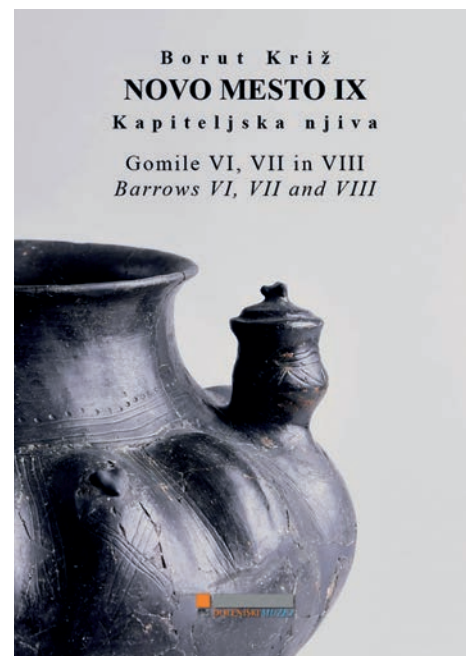
Treasures of the Lonely Mountain –
Millenia-old Stories of the Somló Hill



This exhibition guide introduces the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age periods of Somló Hill through the most recent archaeological research carried out by the Hungarian National Museum and the early discoveries of the Hungarian prehistoric archaeology. Since the late 19th century, Somló has been known for its wine regions and its special findings uncovered due to cultivation, which made the site uniquely important. These early discoveries inspired recent archaeological fieldwork and initially resulted in four new hoards presented to the broader public as a temporary exhibition. The story of Somló Hill started in the 14th century BC when the people of the Urnfield culture established a fortified central place on the hill, which continuously evolved through the early Iron Age until the 6th century BC. Hoards unearthed at different locations of the hilltop settlement represent the finest creation of metalworkers of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age; moreover, they also give an insight into both periods' ritual acts and symbolism. A hoard consisting of iron sickles and a 6th-century BC bronze fibula was discovered in the summer of 2023, which quickly became a unique find of the Early Iron Age of Hungary, as its closest parallels have been found in the northern part of the Carpathian Basin in the Czech Republic. The story doesn't end here, and its worth watching for more news as archaeological fieldwork continues on Somló Hill in the summer of 2024.

D. K.

Novo mesto IX, Kapiteljska njiva,
Gomile VI, VII in VIII / Barrows VI, VII
and VIII, Carniola Archaeologica 9,
Novo mesto 2022



The Dolenjska Museum in Novo mesto, in its archaeological series *Carniola Archeologica*, presents the rich archaeological material excavated in Dolenjska over the past decades.

In the ninth volume of the series, three Iron Age barrows from the Kapiteljska njiva cemetery in Novo mesto are presented, where burials took place almost continuously throughout the first millennium BC. The first investigations at this site were conducted in 1894, and from the mid-1980s until 2018, archaeological excavations have been carried out continuously. So far, just under half (almost 24,000 m²) of the Kapiteljska njiva cemetery has been excavated, revealing 338 cremation graves from the Late Bronze Age, over 720 cremation graves from the Middle La Tène period, and more than 1,170 Early Iron Age graves, typically skeletal, which were buried in 71 barrows no longer visible upon excavation.

In the currently presented mounds VI, VII, and VIII, 100 graves and 4 „finds” have been preserved. Among the multitude of grave goods, notable items include two princely graves with three helmets, four bronze situlas, a ribbed cist, small pottery animal figurine and its analysis. The publication contains 84 plates of archaeological artefacts and grave plans, 3 plans of the barrows, and numerous photographic images of artefacts and field situations.

Design of the cover Maja Rudolf Markovič

B. K.



IRON AGE

STORI

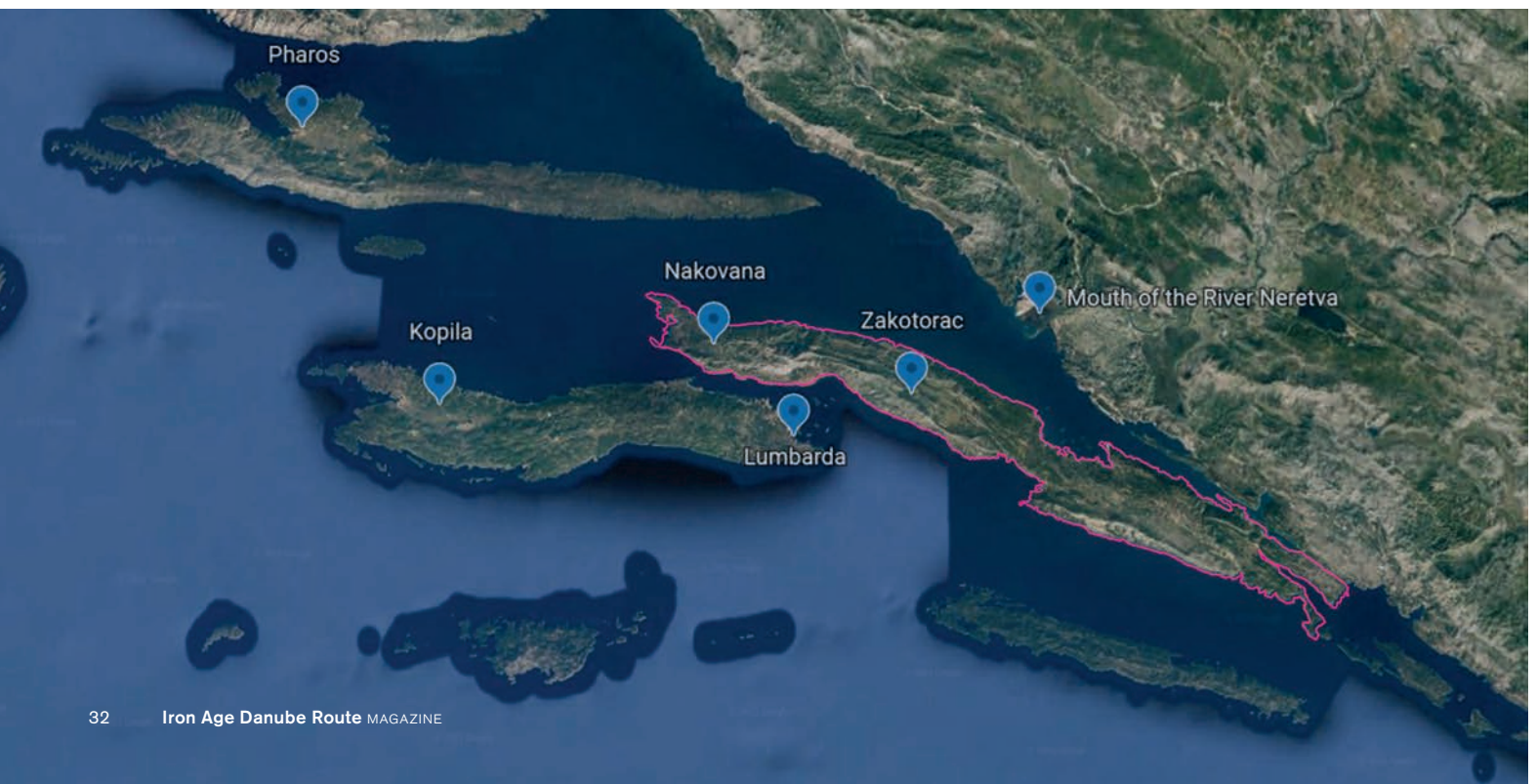


ES

CHANGING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE EASTERN ADRIATIC IN THE IRON AGE

SITE GOMILE IN ZAKOTORAC ON THE PENINSULA OF PELJEŠAC

Zakotorac – map of sites





Hillfort on Kotorac Hill
and necropolis
near village of Zakotorac

by Hrvoje Potrebica,
Domagoj Perkić,
Marko Dizdar

LANDSCAPE

The site Zakotorac is located in the central part of the Pelješac peninsula on the only communication route going across the Pelješac peninsula from east to west. The prehistoric hillfort was probably located on the hill Kotorac (413.8m a.s.l.), dominating this communication. A large necropolis with at least 27 stone mounds is located about 200m southwest from the hillfort, at the site Gomile. However, both are an integral parts of a larger archaeological landscape.

To the west of the hillfort there is a line of stone mounds which leads to the spring Vidohovo, with a larger group south of the hamlet of Golubinica. These mounds (cca. 10) have a more “classic” appearance in form of plain heaps of stones with or without a border. Some are considerably damaged, as stone was used for modern constructions. That revealed some of the graves made of stone slabs, which appear to include skeletal burials in contracted positions. All of that suggests their dating from the very end of the Eneolithic to the Late Bronze Age. Obvious human interventions (monumental stone slabs forming a wall) at the Vidohovo spring and its position in accordance with the mounds make it the pivotal point of the cultural landscape although it is very hard to judge its chronology and meaning.

CONSTRUCTIONS

Among at least 27 stone mounds (or similar drystone constructions) that are identified on the site so far, two basic types may be identified: flat mounds with an outer stone ring and step-like mounds with two or three stone rings. Almost all mounds have several drystone constructions (probably tombs) added on the outer side of bordering stone rings. This kind of mound construction has only known parallels in similar mounds on the site of Nakovana on Pelješac, as well as in necropolis at Kopila near Blato on Korčula. This similarity indicates that mounds on the site of Gomile in Zakotorac could also be dated to the Iron Age. Unlike similar necropolis in Nakovana, flat graves were not found in Zakotorac, so far. A special feature of this site are small drystone constructions added on the outer rim of mounds that are obviously not graves.

GRAVES

So far, we excavated mounds 1 and 5 with the adjoining constructions. In Mound 1 we discovered four graves and two large annexes/tombs added on the outer ring of the mound. Both of these annexes had also already mentioned small drystone construction leaning on them. Graves within the mound had a rather small number of finds as well as human remains compared to abundance of finds discovered in two annexes. Both tombs contained more than ten deceased individuals and hundreds of different grave goods.

Mound 5 is obviously the central construction of the necropolis. Between the 6th and 4th century BC, around ten burial chambers were built within the initial stone ring. Most of these chambers contained more than one individual (and some of them more than ten). The area to the East from the bordering ring was tightly filled with different annexes containing burial chambers with multiple burials and numerous grave goods dated to the period between the 4th and 3rd century BC. Several smaller drystone constructions, likely used for placing votive gifts, were also discovered both within and outside the initial mound ring (the most prominent one being a helmet). The central part of Mound 5 was filled with stone and another two stone rings were constructed at that time concentrically inserted in fill of the mound. The construction was finalized with a central tomb, dated to the 4th or 3rd century BC which was probably robbed. This is also the date of the graves added to the mound outside the perimeter wall.



Zakotorac, Mound 5,
helmet



Zakotorac, Mound 5

ANTHROPOLOGY AND DATING

Most of the burial chambers contained several individuals. Since there is almost no anatomical placement of the skeletal remains and the most numerous skeletal remains are teeth they will be used as a determining factor for a minimal number of individuals in particular grave chambers. For example, a preliminary bioarchaeological analysis shows that grave 1 contained at least 13 individuals: 10 adults and three children. However, the radiocarbon (C14) analysis of two samples (teeth) from two different individuals chronologically identified at least two burial periods: the end of the Late Bronze Age (980–810 BC) and the beginning of the Late Iron Age (380–170 BC). Until further

analysis, we can rely on the typology of grave goods and costume items to assume the inhumation of at least 1 male and 1 female individual in the 4th century BC and one individual in the 10th–9th century BC, which had no additional archaeological materials in the grave. The same situation has been observed in several other cases, while bioarchaeological analysis is still pending. Some of the deceased show signs of perimortal trauma probably related to violence.

CONCLUSIONS

Gomile is an exceptionally valuable site from several aspects. It has a distinct funerary architecture with the closest parallels at Nakovana also on Pelješac and at Kopila on the nearby island of Korčula, suggesting special cultural coine developing in the southern part of the eastern Adriatic coast between the 6th and the 1st century BC. The abundance and diversity of grave goods indicates not only the wealth but also a powerful position of this community in several communication networks. Some of these networks obviously included Greek trade but others went much further along the Adriatic coast as well as deep into Balkan inlands. In any case, the study of this site and community will significantly change our understanding of indigenous Iron Age communities and their obviously much more active role in process of Greek colonisation of the Adriatic and further relation with local communities.



Zakotorac, Mound 1,
excavation of the helmet

THE HEUNEBURG

CITY OF PYRENE AND ITS TRANSFORMATION FROM A CULTIVATED GREEN HILL INTO A MODERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

by Annika Keybach



© Günther Bayerl, SSG

Situated, visible from afar, above the Danube on a plateau in upper Swabia in Southern Germany lies one of the most important settlements of the Hallstatt period – the Heuneburg, also known as polis Pyrene. As a unique prehistoric site with exceptional archaeological evidence and research, the Heuneburg has been developed into an archaeological park, where visitors can explore the former “princely seat” and its reconstructions and immerse themselves in the world of the Hallstatt period.

But, the site has not always been accessible to the public even though its history and significance has been known early on. Already Greek historian Herodotus of Halicarnassus refers in his works “Histories to the Heuneburg” as city Pyrene, a Celtic city that can be found at the source of the Danube. Its modern name Heuneburg can also be traced back to the mid-16th century as a descriptive name, used for places that are believed to be made by legendary people of prehistoric times.

Since the 19th century and due to the effort of associations and individuals, the Heuneburg has not only been recognized as a cultural monument but has also been subject of research and excavations. Starting with the burial mounds surrounding the Heuneburg, researchers of the 20th century moved to the plateau and to excavating the Celtic citadel as well as the Gießübel-Talhou necropolis. Yet recently, researchers focused on the direct surroundings of the Heuneburg including the outer settlement and the Bettelbühl necropolis as well as its connection to other hilltop-settlements close by.

Even though the history of the Heuneburg has been researched since the 19th century, there have been only few explanatory signs referring to its exceptional status on the site itself. As an inconspicuous green hill, the site was used for agricultural purposes since the Middle Ages. This usage, as well as the intensification of agriculture, lead to the destruction of many archaeological remains: the outer fortifications (pitches

and ramparts) and many burial mounds were damaged and destroyed in favour for optimized cultivation. Also, non-visible archaeological remains in the ground must have fallen victim to the century long agricultural use of the land.

Thus in 1981, the municipality of Herbertingen decided to not only preserve the archaeological site but also make it and its research accessible for the public. With support of the newly founded association Heuneburg-Museum e.V. as well as the State Museum of Württemberg, the State Office for the Preservation of Monuments of Baden-Württemberg and the University of Tübingen, the Keltenmuseum Hundesingen close to the archaeological site was opened. In 1996 with the EU program LEADER („Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l’Économie Rurale“) the opportunity to make the Heuneburg accessible for visitors with a new open-air museum presented itself. In the following 10 years, various reconstructions true to original findings were built on the hilltop plateau: parts of

the famous and representative mud brick wall, a big Herrenhaus (a ruler's dwelling), a residential building, a storage room, a metal workshop as well as two additional buildings. The open-air museum was further complemented by a café and a shop. In 2013, a reconstructed foundation of the monumental front gate on its original site and with the original stone foundation still in the ground has been added as well as a wooden bridge over a ditch. The former size and form of this monumental gate are now indicated by a metal shape. Parts of the rampart of the lower town have been reconstructed as well. It shows its function and use as a part of the still visible original fortification system.

Since 2019, the archaeological park of the Heuneburg is operated by the State Palaces and Gardens of Baden-Württemberg. Changing educational programs, workshops, special exhibitions and regular festivities for visitors transform the former Celtic settlement into a modern place of education and tourism. As part of the state-wide cultural policy Keltenkonzeption, the Heuneburg – City of Pyrene will further be developed into a Celtic and Nature Experience World with a new visitor centre where visitors will be able to start their journey through the archaeological park as well as explore the changing exhibitions presenting different aspects of Celtic life at the Heuneburg.

With the goal to protect the site and preserve the archaeological remains still in the ground, new reconstruction on the site itself are forgone in favour of digital formats. Virtual reconstructions and augmented reality formats shall enable future visitors to explore this unique archaeological site and experience the Celtic settlement. Yet advancing climate change and deteriorating earth quality further threaten the archaeological remains still preserved in the ground. Thus, actions for supporting biodiversity and strengthening the earth quality are carried out. Another step in protecting and preserving the Heuneburg – City of Pyrene as an important cultural monument might yet be its recent nomination as a possible UNESCO World Heritage Site.



© Gunter Aipperspach, SSG



© Gunter Aipperspach, SSG

Further Information to the Heuneburg – City of Pyrene you can find here:
<https://www.heuneburg-pyrene.de/en/>



Presentation of the burial mound.
Necropolis of Gradca
© Silvija Pranjić

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES (EXCAVATION/PRESERVATION/PRESENTATION)

+ EU FUNDS = SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION OF CULTURAL TOURISM

by Marijana Lukačević

Further development of any European country today is hard to imagine without the inclusion of cultural and natural heritage as an important (economic) resource for the promotion of tourism. The establishment of links between culture and tourism reinforces both of these areas. Following that idea, Požega-Slavonia County included investments in the revitalization and presentation of cultural heritage in all national and county strategic documents and plans.

The Požega-Slavonia County is one of the smallest counties in the Republic of Croatia. When we think about Slavonia, a region in continental Croatia, we first think of a broad and flat landscape. However, the Požega-Slavonia County is surrounded by hills, with the world-known vineyards on the southern slopes of the hills.

The southern slopes of Papuk, the heart of this county, are also characterized by impressive traces of a warrior aristocracy, who lived here in the last millennium BC. Numerous material remains are strong evidences of this powerful community. The archaeological sites of Kaptol – Gradca (settlement and necropolis) and Kaptol – Čemernica (necropolis) date back to the Early Iron Age (8th to 3rd century BC). The archaeological sites have been continuously excavated for almost 25 years. Thanks to the numerous artefacts in museum collections and published scientific papers, numerous European scientific and other public and local institutions are connected to this area.

So far, several EU financed projects related to the presentation of the archaeological site of Kaptol were implemented in this area. For example, the Interreg DTP project Iron Age Danube, “Monumentalized Early Iron Age Landscapes in the Danube River Basin” (2017–2019) has created an educational trail “Warriors’ Paths – Iron Age in the Golden Valley” with 11 educational boards that connect these two

Interpretation
Centre of Hallstatt Culture,
back façade
© Rusanov ured d.o.o.





archaeological sites into one presentation unit. In 2021, this area became part of the cultural route “Iron Age Danube Route” certified by the Council of Europe. It is also important to point out that the archaeological site is located in the area of the UNESCO Geopark Papuk.

The Požega-Slavonia County has also recognized the potential of this archaeological site and the fact that cultural heritage strongly promotes the area where it is located, beyond regional and national borders. Furthermore, it included the revitalization and presentation of this archaeological site in the list of its strategic projects. The goal of these actions is to create a sustainable cultural tourism destination. It is planned to reconstruct a tumulus in situ, as well as reconstruct prehistoric houses and create VR/AR content related to the prehistoric settlement.

The pivotal strategic project is the “Interpretation Centre of Hallstatt Culture”. The green and self-sustaining building of the centre will be the core of this future destination of cultural and archaeological tourism. Current research results on Kaptol as well as other European sites of Hallstatt culture will be presented in the area of a permanent exhibition, spreading over three floors of the building. The presentation will be interactive and innovative, with a strong emphasis on digital content and highly

accessible to people with disabilities. Furthermore, such a centre will provide the possibility of post-excitation processing of artefacts excavated at the archaeological sites in the Požega Valley, which will include a laboratory for several aspects of interdisciplinary analysis and interpretation. The area for temporary exhibitions will enable the Interpretation Centre to become the central exhibition space of Požega-Slavonia County for visiting exhibitions, and it will also provide a possibility to organize other cultural events in this space.

Tumulus III of the Čemernica necropolis is located in immediate vicinity of the future location of the Interpretation Centre of Hallstatt Culture. Since this tumulus with a monumental dromos (ritual entrance corridor) is one of the rare well-preserved examples in Europe, the County is working on the technical documentation for a reconstruction project, which will present this construction to the public in the coming years.

The future archaeological park is located in the area of the UNESCO Geopark Papuk and is connected to the already mentioned educational trail “Warriors’ Paths – Iron Age in the Golden Valley”, as well as a part of the cultural route „Iron Age Danube Route“ with a Council of Europe certificate.

This approach offers an opportunity to create a sustainable destination of

cultural tourism based on a wide variety of different EU funding programs related both to culture and tourism.

Finally, presenting the archaeological site of Kaptol is an important example that underlines that archaeology can initiate economic development of local and regional communities. In addition, it is excellent example of sustainable investment in cultural, scientific, tourist and economic development of the area where the archaeological site is located.

ROBBERY

OF A NEGOVA TYPE HELMET FROM THE DOLENJSKI MUZEJ NOVO MESTO AND ITS FORTUNATE

by Borut Križ

The archaeological exhibition “The mysterious paths of the Negova type helmets” has been produced by the curators of three museums. The coordinator and promoter was the Intermunicipal Museum of Kamnik, with the National Museum of Slovenia and the Dolenjski muzej (Dolenjska Museum) Novo mesto as participants. The focus of the exhibition is on the helmets and their “mysterious journeys” in recent times, almost two and a half millennia after their creation.

Almost half a century ago, in the summer of 1975, the biggest robbery of cultural heritage artefacts in the former Yugoslavia took place. Some of the most valuable archaeological items from the Iron Age, found in the barrows of Kandija in Novo mesto, were stolen from the Dolenjski muzej in Novo mesto.

During the archaeological excavations of the Early Iron Age cemetery in Kandija in Novo mesto in the 1960s, a multitude of

exceptional archaeological artefacts were discovered, which immediately sparked great interest from both the local and international public. Due to the lack of space for a permanent archaeological exhibition in the Dolenjski muzej, the restored archaeological artefacts were temporarily displayed in glassed-in metal showcases in the lower hall of the Dolenjski muzej Gallery.

In the early morning hours of the 21st of July 1975, burglars broke into the Gallery and stole all the exhibited metal, glass, and amber items. The break-in was noticed the next morning by the museum caretaker and an intensive and thorough police investigation was immediately launched. All museums in Yugoslavia and neighbouring countries were informed, and INTERPOL was also involved in the investigation. However, all investigations eventually yielded no desired results.

Near the museum, in the ground floor of a one-storey building, lived a young family,

Italian detectives in Ravenna with some of the stolen artefacts from Novo mesto (Archive of the Dolenjski muzej Novo Mesto)



RETRIEVAL

who were awake on the night of the burglary with their crying child by an open window. In the quiet of the night, they heard unusual, quiet movements on the street and noticed two cars descending the hill with their engines off and lights out. The behaviour of the night travellers seemed unusual and suspicious to them. On a cardboard box sitting on the table, they wrote down the licence plate number of one of the cars. They forgot about the night event, but in the evening they visited a family member, who happened to be the caretaker of the Dolenjski muzej, who told them about the robbery. They remembered the night event and mentioned the noted vehicle's number plate. However, upon returning home, they realised that the cardboard packaging with the noted licence plate number had already been thrown into the rubbish bin at the corner of the house. Fortunately, it had not yet been emptied, so they retrieved the sought-after paper. They

proudly went to the police with the licence plate information, where they were initially ignored, but in the end, the police checked this information as well. And indeed, the recorded licence plate of one of the two cars spotted on the night of the robbery led the police to Ravenna. Slovenian police liaised with their Italian colleagues, and the investigation stalled for several months until the Slovenian police sent an experienced investigator to Ravenna, who collaborated with the Italian detectives. They discovered that the vehicle's owner and his accomplice had been in the Dolenjska region at the time of the theft in the Dolenjski muzej. The police conducted house searches and, in the last one, found the first stolen items hidden in the basement among the grain. One of them admitted that they had stolen the items in Novo mesto on the instructions of a wealthy client, with whom they had visited the museum a few weeks prior. After the night-time robbery, they took the items to Istria, from where

they transported them by speedboat to a fishing boat that took them to Ravenna. The sudden death of the robbers' client prevented the handover of the items, and the perpetrators hid them in various locations. Of the 106 stolen items, 87 were found and returned to the Dolenjski muzej in January 1976.

The "Heist of the Century" at the Dolenjski muzej in 1975, as it was dubbed by the Slovenian media, was the largest theft of cultural heritage items in Yugoslavia. The harrowing experience of the Dolenjski muzej, with its incredibly fortunate outcome thanks to a series of happy coincidences, could have ended in the permanent loss of valuable archaeological artefacts. Since the robbery was commissioned and the items were not intended for the broader art market, they would have disappeared forever, and only the extraordinary presence of mind of a young family, amidst an otherwise "perfect theft," enabled the finding and the return of these precious items.

IRON

A still life photograph of a kitchen scene. In the foreground, a large, dark, textured ceramic pot sits on a wooden surface. To its left, a wooden colander with a perforated pattern is visible. Fresh green herbs, including basil and chives, are scattered on the wooden surface. In the background, a wooden cutting board with a knife and some white ingredients are visible. The lighting is soft and directional, creating shadows and highlights on the various surfaces.

COOK



AGE

ING

FIND OUT

HOW THE WARRIOR ARISTOCRACY LIVED AND WHAT THEY ATE IN GOLDEN



© Jela TZ PSZ

by Maja Jakobović

The Tourist Board of Požega-Slavonia County is implementing a project „Experience the culture” with an ambitious goal - to enrich the offer of catering facilities in the county, while providing a quality presentation of cultural heritage and encouraging its development, protection and sustainability. The project focuses on the development and practical application of Hallstatt cuisine through the creation of dishes that are based on the results of scientific research conducted at the archaeological site of Kaptol.

The Tourist Board of Požega-Slavonia County hired chef Branko Ognjenović, with decades of experience, for this project. Ognjenović enthusiastically accepted the



SLAVONIA IN EASTERN CROATIA

challenge of researching and creating recipes, using only ingredients that have been scientifically confirmed as present in the Iron Age period. It should be emphasised that the chef was inspired by the Hallstatt cookbook (which is available at https://www.amz.hr/media/x42faafu/e-book_kaptol_hallstatt_cook-book.pdf).

The analysis of the eating habits of the Hallstatt community, which was carried out on the basis of findings from Iron Age sites, yielded valuable data. These data indicate that the people of that period based their diet on grains, fruits, different types of meat and other available foods. Based on this knowledge, chef Branko Ognjenović developed 12 original recipes inspired by these food customs. These recipes represent the flavours and

ways of preparing food characteristic of that historical period and are the result of the reconstruction of ancient gastronomic traditions. From delicious cereal-based porridges suitable for vegetarians, dishes with meat or fish, scones made from wholemeal flour, meat dishes with apples such as pork with pie, liver with chives, pieces of pork fillet and delicious venison in a kettle with broad beans and chives, to wheat with hazelnuts and honey, and millet with baked apples and honey, as well as lentil spread with bacon and chives – true gourmets will enjoy the sumptuous flavours and the widely known Slavonian hospitality.

In the preparation of the dishes, they strictly adhered to the foods that were available at that time. Food preparation

took place mainly in kettles, ovens with clay pots and on heated stones.

Chef Branko Ognjenović emphasised that today these authentic recipes can be adapted slightly with the addition of modern spices, which creates an intriguing combination of past times and contemporary flavours. He invited all those present to try these dishes at a tasting, and to think about including them in the offer of their restaurants, in order to offer visitors a unique gastronomic experience.



THE SITULAE FESTIVAL IS A FESTIVAL OF PREHISTORIC (IRON AGE) LIFE AND CUISINE. THIS YEAR'S EMPHASIS WAS ON A PRINCELY BANQUET. THE OTHER CATERING AT THE FESTIVAL WAS ALSO IN A PREHISTORIC SPIRIT AND SIMILAR DISHES TO THOSE AT THE BANQUET WERE OFFERED BY LOCAL PROVIDERS.

SITULAE FESTIVAL BANQUET

by Polona Janežič
Petra Stipančić

On 8 June 2024, the town of Novo mesto hosted a special event at the Situlae Festival: the local Iron Age prince invited the nobility from various surrounding regions to a banquet. Fellow archaeologist Polona Janežič, working for the past few years under the brand name „Flavours Revived”, used her knowledge to reconstruct the menu and presented the dishes she had developed.

Her work was based on her knowledge of data from different archaeological sites, obtained through archaeological excavations, palaeobotanical and palynological research and data, zooarchaeological analyses, stable isotope analyses, etc., and above all, on her experience with experimental archaeology and foraging. Among other things, guests could enjoy venison stew with lentils and millet, honey-glazed duck loins, kohlrabi baked in bacon,





THE FESTIVAL IS AN EXAMPLE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY COLLABORATION OF LOCAL PROVIDERS AND THE MUSEUM WHERE PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE IS THE BASIS FOR PREPARING EVENTS.

wheat and poppy dumplings with young cheese and blackberries, smoked trout with mustard and elderflower dressing, cereal herb stew with cultivated and wild plants, young broad beans with carrot and beetroot leaves, flatbread made of pea puree and flour, millet-wheat bread, cooked pears, cooked roasted spelt porridge with honey and berries, young cheese with cured meat, hazelnuts, spiced wine and mead.

Each dish has its own story, which illustrates well the skills, trade and knowledge of the Iron Age inhabitants of the region of Dolenjska. The use of game meat is based on depictions of hunting on vessels, belt buckles and similar Iron Age objects, in addition to lentils preserved in the archaeological record. Kohlrabi is one of the plants (as well as cabbage, turnip and mustard) from the south-eastern Alps for which it is assumed that this area is one of the homelands of their cultivation. It was combined with bacon, which was, if not locally produced, imported from Hallstatt salt mines. Wheat and poppy dumplings with young cheese and butter demonstrates the combination of the most common cereals, as wheat and poppy have been a traditional food in our territory for millennia. The dish was enhanced by young cheese with raspberries and butter, representing the processing of milk and storage of dairy products for longer periods. The processing of milk is supported by some of the objects found at the sites, such as strainers. Along with young cheese, served as well on its own, dried meats and smoked trout were offered, representing the knowledge of preserving food to ensure a supply for times of shortage. Fish was combined with mustard sauce and elderflower, which are also strongly represented among the plant remains found at Iron Age sites. It was

drizzled with linseed oil, as linseed was versatile, both for food and textiles. One of the key dishes was definitely the barley porridge, which was inspired by Iron Age food remains from various sites, usually found in combination with meat or animal fat. This time, however, a version was prepared with a special variety of carrots and wild herbs, including nettles, ground elder, sorrel, wild leek and narrow-leaf plantain. Young broad beans were also included on the menu, as they are one of the oldest legumes in Slovenia. They are making a comeback to our tables so we are highlighting their role in both the Iron Age and modern diets. The third very common Iron Age legume, peas, was used in pea puree for flat bread. The dish demonstrates how to make bread in different ways, this one in unleavened form. We also offered millet-wheat bread, as millet was extremely important in the Iron Age diet, probably used for bread as well as for porridge.

The menu was sweetened with cooked pears, sprinkled with roasted hazelnuts. Finally, a porridge was offered, made from roasted crushed spelt sweetened with honey and berries. Experimental archaeology showed that by roasting the cereal, the cooking time decreases, the dish gets a special roasted, slightly smoky flavour and, if crushed, makes a really tasty porridge.

Photos: Boštjan Pucelj
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CELTIC BEVERAGES

FROM THE HEUNEBURG

EXPERIENCE ANTIQUITY
WITH ALL YOUR SENSES -
A REINTERPRETATION FOR VISITORS



What kind of alcoholic beverages did the Iron Age Celts of the Heuneburg produce themselves? That is a question frequently asked not only in academic and scientific research, but also by visitors of the Heuneburg. The short answer to this question is: beer, honey mead and fruit wines. However, the modern images that come to mind usually have little in common with the products actually manufactured by the Celts. Celtic beer, at least in terms of taste, is most similar to today's smoked beer. Yet, it does not contain any hops as a flavouring.

But how can we provide visitors with a lasting impression of these drinks, – especially of Celtic beer? In order to answer this question and to offer visitors a picture of Celtic beverages that is as complete



as possible and can be experienced with all the senses, a new product has been manufactured at the Heuneburg: a flavoured syrup that can be added to modern beer to experience the taste of Celtic beer, tangible to the senses.

The manufacturing process however included many challenges, from researching the taste and all of the components of the historical drink to designing a reinterpretation in collaboration with the manufacturer according to modern standards. Thus, compromises had to be made in order to comply with applicable food regulations as well as to create a product that is durable enough for distribution. The objective was to integrate the components of the historically proven drinks as a flavouring in order to achieve the most authentic taste possible and to ensure that visitors can experience them within the framework of food regulations with an acceptable shelf life.

During the research process of possible ingredients for the modern flavouring syrup, analyses of excavations on the Heuneburg and its surroundings carried out by the State Monument Preservation of Baden-Württemberg and scientific studies on Celtic drinks were consulted. In 1999-2000, during an excavation of a burial mound not far from the Heuneburg, an old metal cauldron was found in the secondary burial. This bronze cauldron, which dates back to the late Hallstatt period, once contained an alcoholic drink that was apparently given as a grave good to the deceased. Remnants of the beverage contained in the cauldron show honey as well as the pollen of two plants: mint and real meadowsweet, a perennial plant that

was used for seasoning. This drink may have been given to the deceased so they would not miss the beverage and its taste even in the afterlife.

Based on these data, the key ingredients for the flavouring syrup – mint, meadowsweet and a slightly smoky aroma – were determined. In order to accommodate for the short shelf life of unhopped beer of less than one year, it was further decided to manufacture the taste of Celtic beer in the form of a honey syrup that can be added to modern beer or water. This deviation from an authentically produced Celtic drink however also provided the opportunity for a non-alcoholic version of Celtic beer. For the visitors of the Heuneburg, who not only depend on their cars to reach the archaeological site but also consist of many families and young people, it is a great alternative to an actually alcoholic beverage.

Furthermore, the expertise and experience of the manufacturer muditā GmbH has been proven to be of great value during the manufacturing process, especially regarding the proportions of different ingredients and the taste coordination.

So how does this new interpretation of a Celtic beer taste? Paired with a Pilsner made in southern Germany, surprisingly well. In addition to a slightly smoky note, the mint and meadowsweet provide the beer with a freshness that is rounded off with the slight sweetness of the honey. The feedback of the visitors at the Heuneburg to the new honey syrup has been positive as well. The majority are intrigued by the taste of a drink the Celts of the Heuneburg have already enjoyed over 2600 years ago at the same place.



IRON AGE



Alenka Stražisar Lamovšek
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YOUTH



by Nina Bratušek
Tjaša Mržljak
Ana Tuljak

THE ORMOŽ RATTLE:

A RATTLING FROM THE PAST

One way of understanding the life of prehistoric societies is by recreating the objects they used. Therefore, in the student experimental archaeology workshops of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Ljubljana, we created replicas of a rattle from a Late Bronze and Early Iron Age settlement in Ormož in NE Slovenia as a gift for the Cremations in Archaeology (CIA) 2024 conference.

A globular ceramic rattle with a diameter of approx. 6 cm was found broken and contained sharp-edged small stones. We attempted to recreate it using prehistoric methods. First, we collected clay and small stones, then we refined, aged and kneaded the clay and shaped it by hand into 84 rattles. We formed two halves, ribbed and moistened the edges, sprinkled the inside with clay dust, and added the small stones. After joining the halves and smoothing the surface, we set the rattles out to dry at room temperature for a fortnight. We also replicated a Bronze Age kiln, unearthed at Oloris near Dolnji Lakoš in North-East Slovenia, in which we fired the rattles for six hours. We lit a fire at the entrance and slowly added burning logs inside and regularly removed ashes and embers. The maximum temperature reached 514°C. Shortly afterwards, we closed the entrance and the temperature began to drop.

The next day we opened the kiln, which was still hot inside, and carefully removed the rattles. They all survived the firing process!

This project not only brought us closer to the sounds of the past but also helped us understand various aspects of pottery, equipping us with skills valuable for future archaeological interpretations.



Photos: Alenka Stražisar Lamovšek

THE NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF ROMANIA AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS PROGRAMME



by Marius Gabriel Neculae

The European Union offers, through its programs, a multitude of development opportunities for citizens (especially young people) as well as for communities and organisations. Being aware of these opportunities, the National History Museum of Romania (NHMR) has initiated a series of projects since 2020, funded through the Erasmus Plus and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programs.

The ESC program started in 2018, having a dedicated budget of € 1.009 billion for 2021-2027 (the second phase of the program), and offering over 270.000 opportunities to young people to help address societal and humanitarian challenges through volunteering or by setting up their own solidarity projects. Through the ESC program there are multiple possibilities for volunteering dedicated to young adults (18-30 years old): Team Activities (short term) and Individual Volunteering Stages (long term). Other types of activities relevant for museums include Local Solidarity Projects. These can be developed only “in country”, proposed and managed by young adults. What is relevant is that any museum or organisation from the cultural sector can apply to be certified to implement projects funded through the ESC program.

According to our knowledge, the National History Museum of Romania is the only museum within the European Union (at least in Romania) certified to implement volunteering projects within the ESC program (NHMR has an approved Quality label for coordination, hosting and supporting). Since 2020 NHMR has proposed and developed five ESC projects (one of Solidarity and four according to its certification) with a total budget of € 347.135. In total there have been 98 volunteers involved, with another 50 to be

involved in 2024: 16 in one Solidarity project, 111 in five Team Activities (four weeks each) and 21 in Individual Volunteering Stages (4-12 months each). These volunteers are coming mainly from the European Union countries (Romania, Bulgaria, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland etc.) as well as from non-EU countries (Georgia and Turkey).

Taking place in a museum, the activities are based on non-formal education and oriented on cultural heritage (guided tours, museum education workshops, reenactment, cultural marketing), with a focus on aspects related to interculturality and inclusion. This is through involvement of participants with diverse backgrounds and confronted with fewer opportunities, as well as engaging a wide range of beneficiaries. Thus, the over 90 activities developed within the previous ESC projects targeted foreigners living in Bucharest, incarcerated people, refugees from Ukraine, children and adolescents in institutional care, as well as students and tourists. In the second part of 2024, NHMR is planning to carry out a four week Team Activity in the archaeological site of Micia

(Hunedoara County), in which 20 young people will be involved, together with the NHMR team, in promoting aspects of public archaeology and developing their competencies in protecting and promoting the archaeological heritage.

In addition to the obvious benefits for the participants (development of personal and professional competencies), for the community (increased level of solidarity), and for the EU programs (enhanced visibility), these projects have also brought a series of benefits for the organisation: increased visibility, even prestige, a range of local and international partnerships, personnel with developed competencies in the domains of interculturality, inclusion, non-formal education, project management, cultural marketing, and volunteer management. The cultural heritage will also benefit from visibility, as citizens who come into contact with information about the projects become more aware of the need to protect all related aspects to the cultural heritage and to preserve their own cultural aspects and understand other cultures.

On the other hand, even though not all participants have a background in the cultural field, many can steer their future careers towards the museum sector or related fields. There are already cases where former ESC volunteers of NHMR, both Romanian and foreign, are currently employees in different museums. Therefore, the ESC program can bring for a museum a significant boost in human resources and international expertise across various fields, strengthening institutional capacity and expanding collaboration networks both within Europe and beyond. In addition to the benefits mentioned above, and not least, an entire pool of volunteers and virtual future employees and collaborators will be available for the organisation.





FOR YOUTH

by Petra Stipančič

Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto is preparing a special programme for the Situlae Festival for school children of the 5th class from the Dolenjska region. We held it for the first time in 2023 and 430 children visited the Situlae Festival, which celebrates Iron Age life and cuisine. For 2024, 600 pupils have applied. The whole programme is dedicated to presenting Early Iron Age life, costumes, culinary, spiritual life, sports and music.

The entire event is at the prehistoric settlement of Marof and lasts from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a cultural-sports-natural history day. The children actively participate in all activities. All our activities first have a short presentation explaining why we do it and how we know it. In the foreground, there are scenes from richly decorated Iron Age bronze vessels, known as situlae. Children have 30 minutes at each station (some are divided into 15 minutes; e.g. dance 15 minutes, instruments 15 minutes). We have external guides and also associates from our museum for each station. The program consists of 6 stations where they are introduced to different activities:

1. PRINCELY COURT

- get to know the princely court with the princely family (prince, princess, guards, maids, high priestess)

2. MUSIC AND DANCE

- get to know the music and instruments of the Iron Age
- get to know the dance and learn a few steps

3. CULINARY

- get to know some basic ingredients and foods, and prepare and bake prehistoric bread

4. POTTERY

- learn about pottery and make your own ceramic spindle whorl; a display of the loom is also shown

5. CRAFTS

- get to know the blacksmith and the processing of iron ore
- glazier
- metallurgist (bronze casting)
- processing of amber

6. SPORTS

- get to know the bow and arrow
- learn to fight with handles

Our main aim is to develop a common consciousness of the meaning of heritage, on which national identity is standing, and also to help growing the museum public from the time of childhood. As a method of experiential interpretation (living history) it allows us to relive the past with the help of games and costumes.

Photos: Alenka Stražičar Lamovšek
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What was it like to live and grow up in the Iron Age? The research project Childhood in Protohistory in the Southern Carpathian Basin of the Croatian Science Foundation (IP 2019-04-2520), carried out at the Institute of Archaeology in Zagreb, has tried to answer these questions by applying the methodology of multidisciplinary research in archaeology, anthropology, chemical analyses of strontium isotopes on cremated osteological remains, and organic remains on pottery and material traces from the middle of the second millennium to the end of protohistory. The research methodology was developed from the recognition of closed contexts with children – which are graves with anthropologically identified children's remains – to objects related to children and traces of children's activities in settlements.

Childhood in the Iron Age in the southern Carpathian Basin, based on material traces from the researched cemeteries of Batina (11th-7th centuries BC) and Sotin (9th-7th centuries BC) in the Danube valley and Zvonimirovo (2nd century BC) in the Drava valley, was characterised by the involvement of children in the daily life of their communities. The care for infants can be seen from the example of chance finds of child feeding bottles from Sotin, stored in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb (Fig. 1). Grave 1 from the same site contained an adult woman and a baby, its urn placed inside the urn of the adult, which shows reverence for the newborn baby who passed away (Fig. 2). Grave 1 is on permanent display in Vukovar Municipal Museum.

Little is known about the clothing of children under 5 years of age because metal parts were only sporadically preserved in cremation graves. More items were discovered in the graves of children aged 6-11. They included clothing items, toys such as ceramic marbles, and tools such as whorls



and flint or iron knives. Graves of that age group also included remains of animal bones, which indicate meat portions that may have been included in the funerary rite and associated with the children's diet during life.

Many activities, such as play, disappeared



Feeding bottle from Sotin

CHILDHOOD IN THE IRON AGE



A figure in the form of a lizard (?) from the settlement of Illok

without a trace because they were associated with organic materials from the environment where the children lived. The relationship of children to the environment can be seen from various ceramic animal figures (Fig. 3), some of which were made by children themselves. The figures were found in the settlements, in different contexts – pits and layers. Miniature vessels as copies of large ceramic vessels, and mud “cakes”, indicate that children learned skills by playing, imitating, and helping adults in the everyday life of the settlement. Tools placed in the graves of children aged 6-11 indicate that children of that age were included in the work of the community.

The graves of the 12–18 age group are the least numerous, which corresponds to the demographic data of other anthropologically analysed communities, so it is hard to identify the age when children became adults in

the Iron Age. Based on the analysis of the explored inhumation graves in the Danube valley from the 6th to the 4th century BC at the cemeteries of Vinkovci, Stubarlija, Szentlőrinc and Alsónyék, and on the clothing items for the funerary rite that have been more fully preserved and have a known position on the body, it is assumed that this transition took place at the approximate age of 15 years.

In the entire Iron Age period, from the 8th to the end of the 1st century BC, children were participating community members with personal clothing items and tableware adapted to their size. Children's clothing items and tableware were small but had the same shape as those used by the adults in the community. In funerary rites, they were treated the same as the other members of the community. They were mostly buried in single graves; the cases of double or multiple graves probably indicate a common tragic cause of death of family members. The age when they were considered adult community members was probably in adolescence, around 14-16 years. The results of stable strontium isotope analyses of osteological remains and analyses of organic vessel remains will provide more information about the children's diet and mobility during the Iron Age.

**MUSEUM EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMMES**

FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

**IN THE SZÁZHALOMBATTA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK**

by Gabriella Takács Németh
Zsuzsanna Tóth





One enters a special, natural environment by passing through the gates of the open-air prehistoric archaeological exhibition site, created in 1996 on the southern edge of an Early Iron Age tumulus field. Buzzwords like ‘open-air’ and ‘prehistoric’ can make a museum appealing even to children, and indeed, classes of 6- to 14-year-old primary school pupils make up more than half of the visitors, and the number of preschool groups has also been increasing lately. Some schools and teachers have been returning for a decade, always bringing new groups to the Park.

Over the years, our museum educator has developed detailed educational programmes for different age groups to help them discover and experience the features of the 3.5-hectare Park. These programmes are linked to the Bronze Age and Iron Age earthworks and hillforts, the Iron Age tumulus cemetery, the Bronze Age and Iron Age house and artefact replicas, and the reconstructed landscape. The material on display is accessed playfully, involving experiential learning, completing worksheets and creating objects. The worksheets are designed for primary school classes divided into grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8.

Registered groups can participate in guided tours and craft activities led by our trained guides and activity leaders. Children can playfully make replicas or models of prehistoric archaeological finds and learn about the details of the prehistoric (Bronze and Iron Age) way of life using activity sheets. In many ways, the Archaeological Park is an ideal setting for ‘learning by doing’.

For preschool children, the Archaeological

Park offers a wide range of opportunities for experiencing and direct learning, primarily as a site for environmental education. While recalling familiar songs and nursery rhymes, they can learn about trees, shrubs, aromatic herbs, and protected plants of the burial mounds. They can touch the wicker fence and the daub wall. They can draw animals on copper plates or stamp Iron Age motifs on cloth if they wish.

The following craft activities are available for primary school children aged 6–10:

- punching Iron Age animal figures on copper plates,
- modelling animals, rattles, spoons, and small mugs from clay,
- belt-making with finger weaving,
- stamping a prehistoric motif on textile with clay stamps,
- crafting the model of a tool with knapped stone points,
- dehusking and grinding cereals and
- weaving and daubing a fence model.

11- to 14-year-old pupils and older people can also make objects requiring greater skill:

- copper wire bracelets, rings, and pendants,
- leather purses and knife sheaths by perforating and binding with a string or cord,
- or bone medallions by polishing and perforating with a bow drill.

To keep the younger generation active, a simple labyrinth was created in the grass at the centre of the Park. Occasionally, a task or reward is placed in its middle in a small basket.

Our barefoot trail encourages both young and old to get moving and become active. On the 70-metres-long path winding through the planted woodland between oak and maple trees, one can step on different materials (gravel, pine cones, stumps, grass, irregular stones, etc.) and have one’s feet and whole body refreshed by the time they reach the end.

The highly popular summer camps for children aged 6–14 will also be available

in 2024. This year’s three themes are owls, prehistoric bags, and dwellings. Youth aged 16–18 are welcome to participate in running the camps as part of the youth community service programme. They usually organise the much-anticipated evening and night ‘test of courage’ on the last evening of the five-day camp.

The museum education programme of the Archaeological Park involves various methods to introduce the prehistoric world, environment, and everyday life of Százhalombatta to people of all ages in an interesting and playful way.





The “ArheoGimPoz“ project was realised in cooperation with the Požega Gymnasium and some partners of the “Iron Age Danube“ Association: Zlatni Papuk Tourist Board, Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, Department of Archaeology of the University of Zagreb and Arts Academy in Split. Second grade students (16 years old) participated in it as part of their history lesson. The goal of the project was to popularise archaeology as a science and the Kaptol archaeological site. The education consisted of lectures, workshops and a site visit. The students were introduced to the methodology of archaeological research, basic information about the Kaptol archaeological site, the method of popularising cultural and historical heritage through the activities of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe “Iron Age Danube Route“, the basics of cultural marketing, the organisation of the “Hallstatt Days“, the preparation of Hallstatt food, and Iron Age weaving and restoration of ceramics. The presentation of the project results was held in Kaptol during the “Hallstatt Days“.

PROJECT

POPULARISATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

KAPTOL





The Cremations in Archaeology 2024 conference, held in Ljubljana and Novo mesto (Slovenia) between 10th and 12th May, brought together expert researchers to discuss the latest advances and findings in the study of various aspects of cremations in archaeology in six thematic sessions, namely 1) Excavation and documentation of cremations, 2) New developments, challenges and limitations for the study of cremations and cremated human remains, 3) Diet, mobility and society, 4) Case studies, 5) Cremations and chronology and 6) Cremations and funerary practices. The three-day event was organised by the University of Ljubljana and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, which are linked by the joint CRIME and SEXI projects, as well as other partners, including the National Museum of Slovenia, the City Museum of Ljubljana, Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto, the Jožef Stefan Institute, the National Institute of Chemistry, Slovenian ERIHS node and the Iron Age Danube Route.

The programme included a keynote lecture by Louis Nebelsick, 38 podium presentations and 18 poster presentations. Among the highlights of the conference were research papers on the use of partially novel stable isotope analyses and their interpretations, as well as innovative methods for reconstructing cremation pyres and understanding the socio-economic contexts of cremation practises. The researchers also presented case studies from different archaeological sites and offered comparative perspectives on how cremation was integrated into funerary customs and what it reveals about the beliefs and social structures of ancient communities. Discussions after the presentations and during the breaks fostered the research community and created an environment of knowledge exchange, looking forward to our next meeting at the Cremations in Archaeology 2026 conference, which will take place in Vienna.

M. Č., T. L., N. L. F.

The session of the Iron Age working group on „Crises in Iron Age Europe. Danger and chance for individuals and communities“ took place in Bochum, 9–10. October 2024 (<https://vabochum-2024.de>). As part of the session a new speaker and new members for the board were elected. We welcome Jasmine Wallner, Kerstin Kowarik and Andrew Lamb on these posts..

The next AG Eisenzeit conference will be held in Frankfurt (Oder) from 8 to 11 September 2025.

Everyone is welcome to contribute.

We look forward to seeing you there!

E. J.



11th „Interpreted Iron Ages“ in Linz

“Interpreted Iron Ages”, the congress “Linzer Gespräche zur interpretativen Eisenzeitarchäologie“ takes place from 14th-16th of November 2024. As usual, colleagues are invited to present their ongoing or completed research about all kinds of aspects of the Iron Age. We hope the format of the meeting offers the ideal setting for intensive discussions in the conference room and beyond.

The series “Interpreted Iron Ages” started 2004. Since then, about 250 papers were presented and published in the “Studien zur Kulturgeschichte von Oberösterreich”. The recent proceedings came out at the beginning of 2024 and mark the 10th jubilee, which took place in November 2022.

The Call for Papers is open until the end of July 2024. Abstracts can be sent to jutta.leskovar@ooelkg.at

For more information see: <https://eisenzeiten.oekultur.at/>

Link to recent publication: https://oo-landes-kultur-gmbh.myshopify.com/products/katalog-studien-folge-55-interpretierte-eisenzeiten-fallstudien-methoden-theorie-tagungsbeitraege-der-10-linzer-gesprache-zur-interpretativen-eisenzeitarchaologie?_pos=2&_psq=eisen&_ss=e&_v=1.0

J. L., R. K.



Iron Age Textiles: Stories from European Crossroads International Scientific Conference 14th June 2024, Kaptol, Croatia



The “Iron Age Textiles: Stories from European Crossroads” conference was a specialized archaeological textile event held on June 14th, 2024, in Kaptol, Croatia. The conference was created and supported by the Croatian Science Foundation project IP-2020-02-2371: IronFoodTexMet and organized by Julia Katarina Fileš Kramberger from the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The organizing committee included Hrvoje Potrebića (University of Zagreb, Croatia), Margarita Gleba (University of Padua, Italy), Karina Grömer (Nature History Museum, Vienna, Austria) and Kristina Rupert (Tourist Board Golden Papuk, Croatia). Co-organized by the Iron Age Danube Cultural Route and in collaboration with the Centre for Prehistoric Research, it coincided with the Hallstatt Days festival.

The conference featured presentations by Margarita Gleba, who showcased the IronFoodTexMet project's comprehensive findings; Bela Dimova, who offered insights into 1st millennium BCE textiles from Bulgaria and Greece; and Julia Katarina Fileš Kramberger, who provided new insights into textile production at Donja Dolina. Matija Črešnar et al. presented early Iron Age textile production data from Slovenia, while Kayleigh Saunderson examined mineralized textiles from Iron Age burials in Austria. Ronja Lau discussed newly discovered textiles from the Dürrnberg saltmine, and Karina Grömer reflected on 160 years of Hallstatt textile research in light of new analyses.

This conference highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary research in understanding Iron Age textiles and their role in the cultural and economic landscape of ancient Europe.

J. K. F. K.

Iron Age Danube Route at the Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists 2024 Rome

'Persisting with change' was the motto of the 30th Annual Meeting of EAA, which was held in Rome between the 28th and 31st of August 2024.

Two sessions in the framework of The Life of Archaeological Heritage in Society theme were organised by the Iron Age Danube Route Association member's representatives (Jacqueline Balen, Marta Rakvin from the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, Szilvia Fábíán from the Hungarian National Museum, Budapest and Sanjin Mihelić from the Museum of Arts and Crafts, Zagreb) at the conference. As archaeological heritage hides a considerable potential for community building and cultural tourism development, both proposed sessions invite contributions to good practices in heritage management that demonstrate how these efforts contribute to building local communities and supporting positive social change and how archaeological heritage can become rural areas' economic and social break-out points.

The sessions' titles were Session#595 'Living Heritage: Archaeological Cultural Routes in the Context of Cultural Tourism Networks' and Session#1161 'Heritage Tales: Participatory Approaches to Heritage Management and Community Engagement'.

SZ. F.



13th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe



Photo: Attila Bujtás

The 2024 Advisory Forum was in Visegrád (Hungary), on 25th-27th September 2024. The main organisers were the Ministry of Culture and Innovation and the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Hungarian Open Air Museum as the coordinator of Cultural Routes Program in Hungary. Partner organisations were the European Youth Centre Budapest, the City of Visegrád, and the King Matthias Museum of the Hungarian National Museum, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Prime Minister's Office, the Hungarian Tourism Agency.

The Advisory Forum, the most significant event of the Cultural Routes programme, is an annual meeting of representatives of EPA (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of The Council of Europe) member states and observers, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe networks and operators, international heritage and tourism organisations and platforms, local and regional authorities, civil society

organisations, foundations, the responsible ministry, as well as other actors in the field of tourism, heritage and culture.

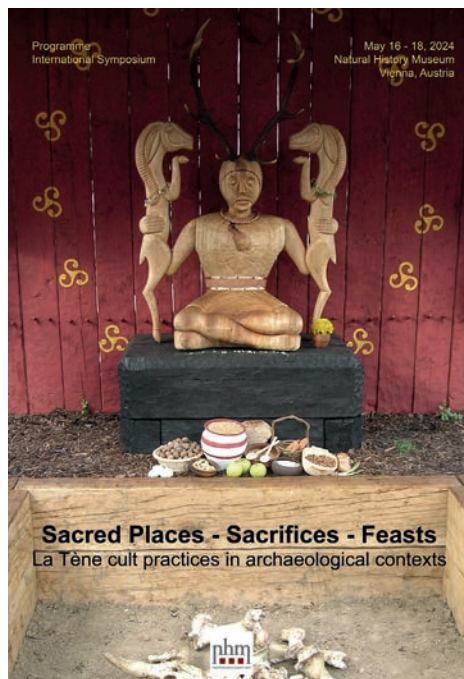
Proposed themes to be discussed include the role of families and younger generations in the preservation process of European cultural heritage, capacity building, the transfer of knowledge, the role of families and younger generations in the operation of cultural routes, and equal rights to cultural resources.

The title of the Forum was “Transmission and Innovation: Fostering the Youth Participation Along the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”.

The programme included a Governing Board meeting, a plenary meeting of members including an introduction to existing and proposed cultural routes, conferences, side meetings, a certification ceremony including new members and renewals, the award ceremony entitled “Best practices of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”, cultural programmes for Forum participants (visits to museums and other places of culture, excursions etc.), and side events, such as an exhibit on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing the Host country, available throughout the event. As one of the certified Cultural Routes involving Hungary the Iron Age Danube Route also had the opportunity to make a brief presentation on the Forum.

E. CS-T.





At the international conference held at the Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria, from May 16th to 18th, 2024, organized by the Natural History Museum Vienna (NHM) together with the Federal Monuments Office (BDA), the current state of research on La Tène period cult and religious practices was presented and discussed in a total of 38 lectures and 11 posters (from Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, France, Great Britain, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia and Spain).

The main topics of the lectures included: the new interdisciplinary research results on the La Tène sanctuaries of Roseldorf, the characteristics of La Tène sanctuaries and their variants, the La Tène cult district on the Frauenberg near Leibnitz (Styria) as a keynote lecture with book presentation, the cult within settlements, the rituals and holy sites from Bohemia to Asia, the rituals and holy places facing west, the holy places in nature and the cult and rituals in burials and cemeteries.

With around 150 specialist colleagues attending, the conference was a great success.

V. H.

Highlights of the Celtic land – A Lecture series on selected Celtic sites in southern Germany

Unique settlements, mighty burial mounds and outstanding finds - this year's lecture series at Heuneburg – City of Pyrene in southwest Germany is dedicated to the “Highlights of the Celtic Land”. From May 5th to August 25th 2024 renowned experts present selected Celtic sites in the state of Baden-Württemberg at the Heuneburg and provide insights into their projects which are part of the so-called *Keltenkonzeption* of the state.

The Heuneburg – City of Pyrene is one of the most outstanding Celtic sites in Baden-Württemberg as well as a centrepiece of the *Keltenkonzeption* (“Celtic concept”), a cultural policy of the state government of Baden-Württemberg which aims to promote the communication of cultural and historical heritage as well as the creation of a network of Celtic sites in the state.

As a highlight of this *Keltenkonzeption*, the Heuneburg – City of Pyrene and thus the State Palaces and Gardens of Baden-Württemberg present the *Celtic land* and its unique settlements, sites and treasures in this special series of lectures. On selected Sundays, visitors learn more about important Celtic sites in Baden-Württemberg and those close to the Heuneburg – City of Pyrene: such as the Heuneburg itself, the oldest city north of the alps; the Heidengraben, a large Celtic oppidum of the La Tène period; the iron age tumulus Magdalenenberg near Villingen, one of the biggest Celtic tumuli in Europe; the museum



of Hochdorf/Enz and the unique princely Grave with its magnificent finds; and the Württemberg State Museum with its exceptional archaeological collection of the iron age as a showcase of the *Keltenkonzeption*.

In five lectures and a guided tour, colleagues and experts from different institutions present their Celtic sites and offer insights into various projects as part of the *Keltenkonzeption*, like structural developments and new digital and educational formats.

A. K.

Sun 5th of May:

“The Heuneburg. An early Celtic town on the upper Danube as reflected in current excavations and research” by Prof. Dr. Dirk Krausse

Sun 9th of June:

“A burial mound of superlatives: new perspectives on the Magdalenenberg” by Peter Graßmann

Sun 23rd of June:

“Tumulus and *Zangentor*: The late Celtic oppidum Heidengraben on the Swabian Alb” by Dr. Jörg Bofinger and Dr. Gerd Stegmaier

Sun 21st of July:

“News from the Celtic prince: The Celtic Museum of Hochdorf and its innovations” by Prof. Dr. Thomas Knopf

Sun 4th of August:

„20 years of “Celts digital” – From the cult image from Fellbach-Schmidlen to the project Time|Travel” by Thomas Hoppe

Sun 25th of August:

A guided tour to “The future of Heuneburg: A guided tour to the project *Nature and Celtic Experience World*” by Dr. Moritz Lange

EVENTS

Situlae Festival – the Festival of Iron Age Life and Culinary Arts



Bostjan Pucelj
© Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto

In the Early Iron Age (8th-4th century BC), when European civilization and culture emerged in the Mediterranean, Novo mesto was one of the largest centres in Central Europe. Among the most important finds from this period are situlae, the bronze vessels for storing and serving drinks, sometimes richly decorated with figures.

No less than 16 situlae come from Novo mesto and after these exceptional artistic creations, the town of Novo mesto is called the city of the Situlae. The Situlae Festival, a festival of Iron Age life and culinary arts organized since 2016 in cooperation with the Municipality of Novo mesto and Dolenjska Museum, is dedicated to these remarkable monuments, which undoubtedly testify to the life of the Hallstatt people in this region.

With various activities, it offers visitors an all-day experience and understanding of the rich archaeological heritage of Dolenjska. At the Situlae Festival you can observe the elements of everyday life during the Early Iron Age in Dolenjska, learn about customs and watch local and foreign craftsmen performing handicrafts. You can take part in culinary workshops or watch animations of various martial arts and dances. You can also see reconstructions of attire. The central event highlights the prince and the princely family with their entourage. Everything you can see and taste is based on the results of experimental archaeology and numerous archaeological investigations at home and abroad. The celebration is enriched by a guided tour of the Museum's rich archaeological heritage and an evening concert with music with a touch of Iron Age. In 2024 we had 9th edition of this traditional festival with special emphasis on iron age culinary.

P. S.

European Heritage Days: JESENICE 2024

The main event of the European Heritage Days will take place in Jesenice, at the Slovenian Ironworks Museum in Stara Sava on Saturday in the afternoon and evening.

We are announcing a rich program that will intertwine this year's theme, Heritage of Cultural Routes, Networking, and Connections, with various activities:

- The Guild of Blacksmiths of Slovenia, in collaboration with colleagues from Hungary, will conduct a blacksmithing workshop; a demonstration of forging will also be presented to students of the mechanical engineering and mechatronics program at Jesenice Secondary School,
- A public guided tour of the inter-institutional exhibition by the Štore, Ravne, and Jesenice museums: Steel of the Green Future will be organized,
- In collaboration with RAGOR, a stage of the cultural route Memories of Old Jesenice will be presented,
- The activities of the Slovenian Iron Culture Route Association will be showcased,
- Visitors will be able to try a worker's snack,
- The gathering will conclude with music.

The event will be available to visitors for free, as the program of the European Heritage Days and the Creative Network is supported by the Municipality of Jesenice.

WHEN

Saturday 28. September 2024

HOST

Gornjesavski muzej Jesenice

T. K.



Photo:
Simon Vatovec

Unveiling the Past: A Thriving EAD 2024 in Slovenia!



Did you know that the third weekend of June is all about archaeology in Europe? The European Archaeology Days (EAD) are a must-attend event for archaeology and history buffs, and Slovenia is making a big splash! And this year's EAD surprised archaeology fans with various free events across Slovenia.

What's so special about EAD in Slovenia? It's not just an exciting journey through time like hanging out as a Celt and experiencing a day in the Late Iron Age in Dunaj, but it's also enjoyable through experiential learning and diving into the past with hands-on workshops or on-site discoveries. The visitors of the 3-day event could learn to do archaeological drawings, create hand-crafted pottery or jewellery and explore fascinating archaeological sites.

In Slovenia's EAD 2024, there was something for everyone. Lectures and discoveries about Roman inscriptions or burial rites and sites through time, various eye-catching posters and exhibitions, demonstrations, music, and dance brought archaeology and history to life for all ages. Day and night events catered to busy schedules.

EAD is more than just fun! It's about connecting with the past, fostering knowledge exchange between archaeologists and the public, and promoting archaeological tourism as well as heritage protection.

Stay tuned for the EAD 2025!

A. Č. V.

Celtic Festival Sopron

People enthusiastic about discovering the past have always rightly found the Iron Age landscape left behind by the Celts in the Sopron Mountains and its close area captivating. In recent years, the Northwest Pannonia Cultural Association has organised diverse minor events, offering meaningful interactive and musical educative programmes for families. In light of the latest, umpteenth, 21st-century renaissance of the Celtic era and its infiltration into the cultural mainstream and matching the recent Western European trends, the organisers designed the latest event with the current scientific consensus in view but focusing on making it appealing to the general public in the first place, creating a historical festival.

Besides various programmes for children (a Celtic workshop where one can try diverse crafts, body and face painting, hair braiding, and amulet making), they can get familiar with Celtic military training, walk a Celtic educational trail, and visit an open-air market to buy craft products and those of local farmers. Adults are entertained by modern Celtic folk and punk-rock bands and an Irish folk dance group. The event venue is one of Europe's most important Iron Age sites, Sopron-Krautacker (today: Jereván residential estate). For details, see the attached flyer.

The project was realised as part of project NEAE-KP-1-2024/1-000077 by the Bethlen Gábor Management cLPC, with the support of the National Cooperation Fund and the Prime Minister's Office.

A. M.

KELTA FESZTIVÁL
SOPRON 2024
JÚNIUS 29. SZOMBAT
10:00-20:00

A RENDEZVÉNY MINDEN
ÉRDEKLŐDŐ
SZÁMÁRA INGVENES!

HELYSZÍN: 9400. SOPRON, HERBSZT
ZOLTÁN SÉTÁNYT ÖVEZŐ RÉT

HELLÉPŐK

BUDAPEST HIGHLANDERS PIPE BAND
Nagyművészi akadémista és dob zenekar
(Délelőtt és délután)

15:00 SÁRDY ÉNEKISKOLA MŰSORA
16:30 ERIN SEITEPP TÁNCSCSOPORT ÉS TÁNCISKOLA
17:00 NAGY GERGŐ, GITARMŰVÉSZ
18:00 THE JOLLY JACKERS EGYÜTTES
folk punk zenét játszó magyar zenekar
19:00 THE CHAZZY BOARDS EGYÜTTES
kelta népi elemekre épülő country-folk
punk rock banda
20:00 KELTA AFTER PARTY
családi

A műsorváltás idején fenntartjuk!

Nemzeti Együttműködési Alap
MINISZTERELNÖKSÉG
BETHLEN GÁBOR KEZELÉS

A projekt létrejöttét a BGA támogatásból a NEAE-KP-1-2024/1-000077 azonosítójú pályázat keretében

- KELTA TEES-VEZÉS MŰHELY, KÉZHŰVES FOGLALKOZÁSOK
- TEST ÉS ARCPESTÉS, HAJFONÁS, CSILLÁMTETKŐ, TALIZMÁNKÉSZÍTÉS, STB.
- KELTA HARCÍ KIKÉPZÉS
- KELTA TANÖSVÉNY
- RÓMAI VÁROSTROM, RÖNKVIAD-AL, KŐHAJÍTÁS, RÖNKHAJÍTÁS, PATKODÓBAS, LIÁSZAT ÉS MÁS LÁTVÁNYOS PROGRAM
- KÉZHŰVES ÉS ÖSTERMELŐI KIRAKODÓVÁSÁR
- ÉTEL, ITAL KIFOQYHATLANUL



Photo:
Timotej Kruška

Smelting at Lavričeva "Mountain Lodge", at the Day of Axe, became an annual event combining a national axe throwing competition, smelting and forging, with a two day forest party.

Next to the woods in an open-air forging ground, iron ore will be burned in a reconstructed prehistoric iron smelting furnace. Iron ore was one of the main reasons that a mighty prehistoric settlement was built on Vir pri Stični 2,800 years ago, which we call Virski Zvinger or Virsko mesto. The organisers will bring the rich prehistoric tradition of iron production closer to today's people with a very vivid demonstration of iron production in a smelting furnace, as used by ancient metallurgists.

WHEN:

Friday 6. 9. 2024: 18.00 - 00.00

Building clay furnace and chopping charcoal

Saturday 7. 9. 2024, 10.00 - 20.00:

Live forging demonstration by The Guild of Blacksmiths of Slovenia and training day for the axe throwing competition.

Sunday 8. 9. 2024, 06.00 - 20.00:

Smelting starts with preheating. Loading iron ore 9.00. Forging the bloom 15.00.

Axe throwing competition day.

WHERE:

Lavričeva koča na Gradišču

Petrušnja vas 38, Šentvid pri Stični, Slovenia

tdlavricevakocagradišče@gmail.com

Š. J.

Hallstatt days – an experience of the Iron Age at Golden Papuk

Every year in the small Slavonian town of Kaptol, on the third weekend in June, Hallstatt Days are held as part of the Kaptol Municipality Days and the European Archaeology Days. This festival of revived history is organized by members of the „Iron Age Danube“ Association; Tourist Board Golden Papuk, Municipality of Kaptol, Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, Centre for Prehistoric Research and Department of Archaeology of the University of Zagreb. This year, the event lasted three days, from June 14th to 16th. The theme of the event was textiles in the Iron Age. Its integral part was the international conference „Iron Age Textiles: Stories from European Crossroads.“ Two exhibitions were showcased as part of the Hallstatt Days. The exhibition „Stories from the Past – Journey to the Lost Landscapes“ of the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb showed a 3D reconstruction of the archaeological site of Kaptol, and the exhibition „Dressing the past – Hallstatt period costume from Austria“ of the Natural History Museum in Vienna presented prehistoric attire. Visitors could participate in many workshops and visit the tourist-information trail „In the Footsteps of the Warriors“, enjoy Hallstatt food and taste products from local producers who link their brand to the archaeological site of Kaptol. The central point was a fashion show of prehistoric clothing in which the local residents of Kaptol participated. This event returned Kaptol to the Iron Age and provided its visitors with a unique experience of cultural and historical heritage as a tourist product.

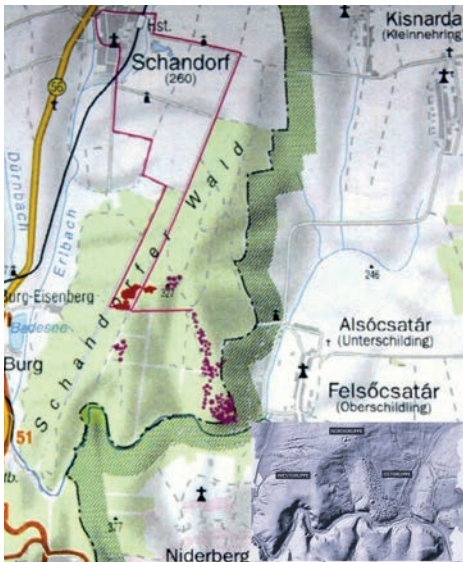
K. R.



Photo:
TZ Zlatni Papuk

Communication along the Amber Road in the Iron Age – new perspectives in multidisciplinary research and promotion

Archaeological and heritage management conference in Szombathely (Hungary),
20–21st March 2025



The Savaria Museum, in cooperation with the Iron Age Danube Route Association, the Archaeolingua Foundation, and the Savaria Historical Carnival Foundation, is organising an international scientific conference in March 2025. The summit will be held in Szombathely, in the city whose Roman predecessor was built on the Amber Road, a communication route stretching from the Adriatic coast to the Baltic region, which has been important since the Iron Age. The venue will take place in the Art Gallery Szombathely (Szombathelyi Képtár), in the immediate vicinity of the Roman Iseum.

The international forum will present new methods of investigation (such as remote sensing techniques and non-destructive site surveys), especially in Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia. However, papers with similar approaches from other countries in the Danube region are also welcome.

Recognising that open-air museums have benefited from expanding cultural tourism over the past ten years, the conference will dedicate a special session to heritage management. Well-managed sites have shown that archaeology can add value to tourist attractions and become a critical, creative cultural magnet in rural areas. One good example of multifaceted cooperation is the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes programme, which fosters theme-based networking and community involvement in heritage management.

Participants will be able to learn modalities of local solutions via short excursions: the conference programme will be enriched by a guided city walk tour in Szombathely, a visit to the Iseum and the Savaria Museum, and excursions to Velem and Schandorf.

Detailed information will be accessible on the homepage of IADRA at the end of 2024.

C. S., E. J.





Photo: László György

Learn about the Iron Age without barriers

The Hungarian National Museum's temporary exhibition entitled *Treasures of the Lonely Mountain – Millenia-old Stories of the Somló Hill* introduces Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age life, customs of the warriors that lived on the hill, and the most remarkable artworks of the two eras' metallurgical craftsmen, based on the results from the latest research of the National Institute of Archaeology and the golden age of Hungarian archaeology.

The volcanic Somló Hill, which towers above the western portion of the Balaton Uplands region, was a residential area occupied by both Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age elites. Archaeologists first unearthed the remains as early as the 19th century, concurrently with the world-famous cemetery excavations at Hallstatt in Upper Austria. The systematic excavation works in the early 20th century revealed that the enormous tombs of the Iron Age aristocratic warriors, who had extensive relationships, had been crafted by entire communities. Almost a century later, archaeologists returned to the Lonely Mountain to look for answers by applying the latest methods and involving the general public.

We organised this year's first barrier-free guided tour with the contribution of a sign language interpreter on March 26, 2024. The curators, Bence Soós and Gábor János Tarbay, along with the sign language interpreter, Barbara Botos, representing the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ), guided the exhibition tour.

The event was organised in compliance with the cooperation agreement to realise barrier-free museum tours for the deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors four times a year in the Museum's exhibitions, which was adopted as a grassroots initiative to the social responsibility strategy

of the HNM National Institute of Archaeology in 2023. It is a remarkable success that the two national organisations representing people with disabilities signed a cooperation agreement with the HNM early this year.

The National Institute of Archaeology, Hungarian National Museum (NIA, HNM), launched its social responsibility strategy two years ago by organising thematic student campaigns. In 2023, a grassroots initiative to make archaeology accessible to the deaf and hard-of-hearing, as well as to the blind and visually impaired people, emerged.

It turned out to be a remarkable success that – besides barrier-free guided museum tours – the two national associations, the SINOSZ and the Hungarian Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (MVGYOSZ) have both signed a cooperation agreement with the HNM early this year. In parallel, we have begun to look for good practices, and innovations that can develop our program.

E. P., V. B.



Photo: Vanda Letricia Széll

Opening of the First Kings of Europe

The “First Kings of Europe” exhibition, organised by the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, has arrived at its third station on the North American tour at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau. The displays of the treasures of ancient Europe titled “The First Royals of Europe” opened on the 4th of April. The exhibition is the result of an incredible collaboration between 26 institutions from 11 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia).

It is a scarce opportunity to showcase the European roots of universal civilisation and the emergence of power and inequality through more than 700 rare and beautiful objects. Together, the travelling exhibition presents a never-before-exhibited highlight of the life of prehistoric cultural koine communities (6000 BC–100 BC) of Central and South-Eastern Europe. At the opening ceremony, Caroline Dromaguet, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of History, and curators William A. Parkinson (Field Museum of Natural History) and Attila Gyucha (University of Georgia) shared their thoughts on this unique exhibition. At the pre-opening reception, Mária Vass-Salazar, the Ambassador of Hungary to Canada, paid tribute to the museums, curators and all those who have created this extraordinary exhibition and to the staff of the Canadian Museum of History for their fascinating presentation of the ancient history of Europe. The exhibition is the last stop on the „First Kings of Europe” tour and will be on display in Gatineau, Canada, until January 2025.

SZ. F.



Photo: Boštjan Pucelj

Life and Afterlife – Novo mesto 3,000 Years Ago

With its extraordinary archaeological past, Novo mesto ranks among the most important prehistoric sites in Europe and plays a valuable part in shaping our picture of prehistoric European culture. Its biggest contribution to this picture comes in the form of precious finds from the Early Iron Age, the period of the flourishing Hallstatt culture. First and foremost is the prehistoric cemetery of Kapiteljska njiva, which was in use throughout the first millennium BC and which, thanks to the remarkable number of graves that have been investigated, dating from three distinct periods, represents an inexhaustible source of information and opportunities for study. The archaeological exhibition *Life and Afterlife – Novo mesto 3,000 Years Ago* presents the last two centuries of the great Bronze Age: the tenth and ninth centuries BC. The presentation of life and burial rituals is based on archaeological investigations of Novo mesto’s two Bronze Age cemeteries, Kapiteljska njiva and Mestne njive, with an emphasis on grave goods, and, to a lesser extent, of the Marof and Šance settlement areas. Our knowledge is complemented by the results of numerous investigations carried out during the construction of Slovenia’s motorway network and the results of contemporary scientific research carried out during building work.

Various museum projects ranging from exhibitions, workshops and lectures to archaeology experience days are extremely important for raising public awareness of the importance of preserving and protecting archaeological heritage as a valuable element of the original, local area, which is part of the wider picture of the past that is common to all of us.

P.S.



Photo: Matteo Prodan

Histri in Istria

The *Histri in Istria / Histri u Istri* exhibition was an international collaboration between the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula (Cro) and the Museum of Antiquities J. J. Winckelmann in Trieste (It) on the initiative of the Croatian community in Trieste. It was the first time the Histri were presented outside Croatia, which stimulated a successful dialogue between Istria and Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

The exhibition, whose author was Martina Blečić Kavur from the University of Primorska in Koper (Si), was open from 15 December 2023 to 7 April 2024. It included 240 items presenting a part of the distant but significant archaeological heritage of Istria, which, among other things, reflects the identity of this region. The Histrian society has played an important role in the cultural dynamics of the entire Adriatic basin and has thus earned its rightful place in history. The exhibition encapsulates our current knowledge of the Histri and their culture through rituals and burial rites, as reflected in representative artefacts of their opulent material culture from the 1st millennium BCE. In less than three months, the exhibition was visited by 20,127 visitors, with a series of guest lectures offered and the luxury catalogue *The Heroic Age of Histri*’ promoted by the author of the exhibition.

M. B. K.



Photo: Marko Grego

Gravehopping in the Tolmin Museum Archaeological exhibition Od groba do groba

Until the 31st of March 2024 the temporary exhibition *Od groba do groba / Gravehopping* was on display at the Tolmin Museum in Tolmin, which showed burial methods during the period between the Bronze Age and the early Middle Ages in the Posočje and Celje regions.

In some periods, funeral rites in the western and eastern parts of today's Slovenia were quite similar; in others they were completely different. From the funerary customs and burials, it is also possible to understand in which archaeological periods the area in question was at its peak of development and when its cultural decline began. Thus, in the Celje region, the peak was the Roman era, while the „golden age“ of Posočje took place half a millennium earlier, during the early Iron Age.

The basis for the exhibition in the Tolmin Museum was the temporary exhibition of the Celje Regional Museum, which talked about burial methods in the territory of Celje.

The new, greatly expanded museum presentation, which was the result of the collaboration of archaeologists from Celje and Tolmin, has retained its original title.

This was taken from the film *Od groba do groba* (*Gravehopping*), shot in 2005.

Its author is archaeologist Jan Cvitkovič, who spent his youth in Tolmin and is known today primarily as a filmmaker. Cvitkovič also ceremoniously opened the exhibition in Tolmin on the 20th of December 2023.

M. B., J. K., M. M.



Photo: Karlo Hruškar

Požega Municipal Museum

Požega Municipal Museum, after a long time of reconstruction and renewal, reopened its doors to the public on the 1st of June 2024. On approximately 600 m² of space this new permanent exhibition presents the town's history. One section presents the ethnographic material of the Požega Valley. An indispensable part is the Art Gallery which presents the art of unknown authors of the 18th and 19th centuries, as well the art of painters Gustav Poša, Miroslav Kraljevič, Jozo Janda and Matko Peič. The archaeological section presents two of the most significant archaeological sites of Požega Valley. The Middle Age site of Benedictine monastery of St. Michael the Archangel is famous for the unique sculpture, called *Rudina Heads*. The other, the most significant site of the Požega Valley is the Early Iron Age site *Kaptol Gradci*. This section presents material from only one grave, *tumulus 6* (8th–7th century BC). This material points to the rare finding of a burial of two warriors. In *tumulus 6* there were 26 various ceramic vessels, the richest hoard of this kind found in Croatia, as well as various metal artefacts – parts of helmets and a suit of armour, two sets of horse harnesses, five spearheads, three battle axes and two swords.

M. P. H.



Photo: Andreas Heckenberger

“Scorching hot. The – dangerous – game with fire”

This year at the Heuneburg – City of Pyrene – at the upper Danube in southwest Germany, guests can visit the new and exciting exhibition “Scorching hot. The – dangerous – game with fire” (original “Brandheiß. Das – gefährliche – Spiel mit dem Feuer”). From 14th of April to 3rd of November 2024 the special exhibition takes visitors of the former Celtic princely seat on a journey through the history of fire usage.



Fire, an elemental force since time immemorial, has fascinated mankind and has had a lasting impact on our culture and environment. The exhibition “Scorching hot. The – dangerous – game with fire” shows in which ways fire has changed and shaped people’s everyday lives, culture and environment. It takes its visitors on a journey from the earliest days of humankind to the modern world. Various aspects and usages of the element fire, from toolmaking to fireworks, will be presented. Visitors can learn how the mastery of fire revolutionised human existence and what dangers it harboured at the same time. Through this exhibition and various shows, the archaeotechnician Frank Trommer offers unique insights into the art of fire and invites visitors to explore the various facets of the hot element at the Heuneburg – City of Pyrene. Special demonstration of forging and bronze casting in the reconstructed metal workshop on the site of the Heuneburg further enables visitors to understand and experience the process of metal working during the Iron Age.

A. K.



Photo: Barbara Kogoj

Renovated Archaeological Exhibition in Škocjan Caves Park

At the beginning of the summer of 2024, a renovated archaeological exhibition will open at the Delez homestead in Škocjan as part of the tourist offer of Škocjan Caves Park.

The first archaeological exhibition, which presented the significance of the Škocjan area through selected artefacts, was established in 2005. The renovated exhibition retains the essence of this presentation by showcasing the most important archaeological finds and supplementing it with new replicas of artefacts, the originals of which are stored in the city museum in Trieste (Museo d’Antichità J. J. Winckelmann, Trieste).

The exhibition takes visitors back in time to this area, characterised by cave entrances that symbolise a passage to the afterlife. These dramatic scenes of water entering the underground gave Škocjan great symbolic power already over three thousand years ago, shaping it into a centre of supra-regional significance. This is evidenced by the well-known site of the Fly Cave (Mušja jama), where rituals of offering items, mostly of male warrior nature, took place, originating from different parts of the world and dating between the 12th and 8th centuries BC.

The exhibition also features replicas of other significant Škocjan sites, mostly from the Late Bronze and Iron Ages: the Škocjan Treasure, with many amber beads, the cemetery under the village of Brežec, with selected male and female graves, a situla with a Venetic inscription from the Skeletal Cave (Skeletna jama), a Negau helmet from the Škocjan Cave system, etc. The exhibition concludes with an in-situ presentation of a house from the 2nd/1st century BC, complemented by a reconstruction of the interior and original archaeological objects.

Š. P.



Sotin Hoard Hidden Treasure of the Late Bronze Age

On Wednesday, April 10, 2024, an archaeological exhibition titled *SOTIN HOARD – HIDDEN TREASURE OF THE LATE BRONZE AGE* was opened in the Gallery Oranžerija of the Vukovar City Museum. The author of the exhibition is Gorana Kušić, the curator of the Archaeological Collection at the Vukovar City Museum.

The exhibited items were discovered in 2016 during an archaeological survey in the suburban settlement of Sotin in Vukovar. The Sotin Hoard is classified as a mixed hoard of the II horizon (Ha A1) of the Urnfield culture. Its discovery is of exceptional importance in the context of the distribution of II horizon hoards in this part of Europe and ranks among the most significant archaeological finds in Croatia in recent years. A total of 177 bronze items from the beginning of the Late Bronze Age (13th and 12th centuries BC) provide insights into the life of the Late Bronze Age community.

The hoard includes weapons (swords, spears, daggers), defensive equipment (fragments of helmet, greaves, and arm guards), tools (axes, pickaxes, sickles, knives, saws), jewellery (necklaces, bracelets, belts, anklets, pins, fibulae, pendants, hair ornaments, appliques), metal sheets, toiletries (razors), wires, and semi-finished products.

The discovery of the hoard in Sotin within a contemporaneous settlement is one of the few in situ documented hoard locations from the Late Bronze Age. The Sotin hoard is currently the westernmost find of its type in Srijem, where a high concentration of hoards has been recorded in the eastern part.

The exhibition and accompanying catalogue are funded by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia.

D. L. D.

ILLYRIAN HELMET

FROM THE SITE **GOMILE** NEAR **ZAKOTORAC** ON **PENINSULA** OF **PELJEŠAC,** **CROATIA**

by Hrvoje Potrebica

The Necropolis of Gomile on the saddle of the Kotorac hill, where the prehistoric hillfort is located, consists of about thirty mounds with a characteristic circular ground plan with several concentric stone rings, roughly dating to the 6th to 3rd century BC. The research of this site (2020-2024) is coordinated by the Center for Prehistoric Research and run by Hrvoje Potrebica Ph.D., professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb and president of the CPR, Domagoj Perkić, Ph.D., director and senior curator of the Archaeological Museum, Dubrovnik Museums, and Marko Dizdar, Ph.D., director of the Institute of Archaeology. This year the archaeological team that has excavated necropolis Gomile at the village of Zakotorac, discovered another Illyrian helmet. It was discovered in isolated in separate small stone ring, placed among graves in central part of the mound 5. The helmet was secured in a vertical position with several stones, including one fitted into the face opening, and carefully covered with larger stones to avoid pressure or damage to the helmet itself. The helmet found in grave 1 in 2020, which was next to the mound 1, also belonged to the same variant and it was also placed in vertical position in separate space, close, but outside the ostentatious grave. The vertical position as well as the fact that it was not connected to any osteological remains suggest that it was some kind of votive offering not related to an individual but rather to the group of people buried in one of the grave chambers or even to the mound itself.

Both helmets are well-preserved and belong to the same III A2-a variant of the Illyrian type of helmets dated mainly into the 5th century BC. This variant is widely distributed in the Southeastern Europe, from Greece and Macedonia, all the way to the Sava Valley and Transylvania. For this reason, it is assumed that there were several production centres, one of which could have been located on the eastern Adriatic coast or in immediate inlands. About a dozen such helmets were found in Dalmatia, and even more in Herzegovina. These helmets are characterized by a rectangular opening for the face with decorated edges, long cheek pieces, and two parallel ridges at top where the plume was wedged. The discovery of two helmets in one location testifies to the power of the elite that ruled the indigenous community in the 6th and 5th centuries BC. Control over important maritime routes that passed between Pelješac and Korčula, was an important source of the power and wealth for the local elite. In addition to the helmet itself, other finds were also discovered this year, such as bronze fibulae, diadems and other body ornaments, as well as osteological remains that are being sent for anthropological analysis and radiocarbon dating.

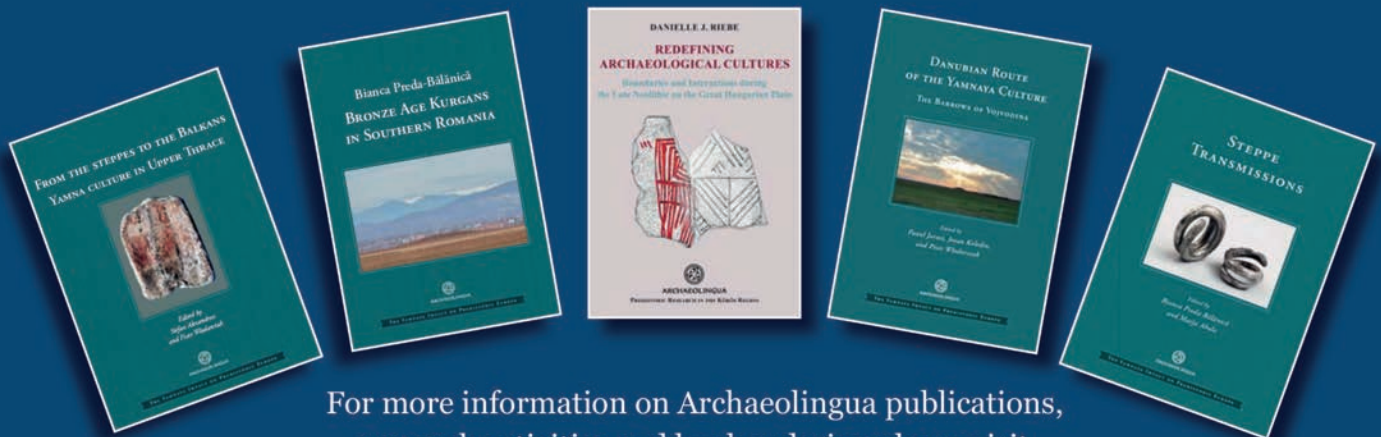


Illyrian helmet
found in situ in the mound no.5
at Zakotorac, 2024.
Photo: Domagoj Perkić, Ph.D

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