Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
Living Danube Limes

OUTPUT T3.5

Pilot Action (P13)

Kopačevo (Croatia)

Title	Increasing the Visibility of the Roman Danube Limes	Final version 12/2022

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1. Introduction

This paper summarises the various efforts taken and activities organised in the framework of the project Living Danube Limes contributing to the increase of visibility and conveyance of the Roman past at the individual national project pilot sites (listed downstream the Danube): Gunzenhausen (Germany), Comagena/Tulln in combination with St. Johann im Mauerthale (Austria), Iža (Slovakia), Matrica/Százhalombatta (Hungary), Ad Labores/Kopačevo (Croatia), Lederata/Ram (Serbia), Bononia/Vidin in combination with Sinagovtsi (Bulgaria) and Sacidava (Romania).

2. General Information on the Pilot Site

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

In the period of antiquity village of Kopačevo boar a name Ad Labores. Its close proximity to one of the largest colonies in roman Panonia, Colonia Aelia Mursa (Osijek) provides a clue to the possible nature of the roman site. It is most probable that Kopačevo was a roman camp, overlooking the vast marshland to the east towards the Danube and protecting Mursa from the northeast.

Today Kopačevo is most famous for the beautiful nature park Kopački rit. Kopačevo serves as a gateway to the sprawling marshlands characteristic of Danube and Drava confluence. It is one of the largest preserved intact wetlands in Europe. The proximity of the village to Osijek

provides great and easy access for tourist arriving by automobile, bus or bicycle. Croatian Baranja region became one of the first Croatian centers for cycle tourism with several of the international bike trails going through this small village and Kopački rit nature park.

3. Documentation of Selected Visibility Measure(s) Implemented On-Site

Regarding the chosen visibility measure IAHR team decided to use physical reconstruction alongside the information board means of increasing visibility on the Kopačevo pilot site. Since there is little to none architectural remains present on the pilot site of Kopačevo, and unfortunately geophysics survey showed as such, we decided to reconstruct the most important finds we had from the pilot site itself. Those finds are a group of epigraphic stone monuments from Kopačevo village now in Archaeological museum in Osijek and Museum of Slavonia in Osijek respectively. Already in June of 2021 photogrammetric documentation of all relevant epigraphic monuments has taken place. We have recorded 2 of the votive altars (area) from the site. The method used proved crucial for not just documentation and presentation of the monuments but for the better reading of the stone inscriptions as well. A company *Lupercal* was hired as an external expert for the documentation and 3D modeling work on the monuments.

Figure 1 Process of photgrametric documentation

Figure 2 Finished 3D model

4. Visibility Workshop

Visibility workshop was held online in June 2022 (15th of June). Many participants were present to hear several lectures from varied variety of experts mostly working on archaeologically themed Interreg projects throughout the region. Speakers and lectures were as follows: Ružica Marušić, Matej Marušić, Presentation of the Danube travel stories project, proposal of positions for placing panels as part of the visual identity of PP Kopački rit; Jacqueline Balen, (Archaeological Museum Zagreb), Example of good practice, cooperation between the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb and the Papuk Nature Park as part of the Interreg Iron Age Danube project and Zrinka Mileusnić (University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, Archaeology) Combination of natural and cultural heritage. Short introduction and presentation of Kopačevo followed by questionnaire of possible visual implementations was held with a almost unanimous vote for physical reconstruction.

5. Virtual Reality Reconstruction and 3D Models

3D models were used by our associated partner Archeological museum Zagreb in a VR workshop which was reported in our VR implementation.

6. Visibility measures installation

A Croatian sculptor was hired as a external expert for the construction of a roman area replicas. Together with a info board the visual implementation aids were given to the Nature park Kopački rit which will include both in a new entrance gallery for the nature park and on

the educational trail within the park itself.

Figure 3 Info board with IAHR project lead and NP DIrector

Figure 4 Handover of visibility measures