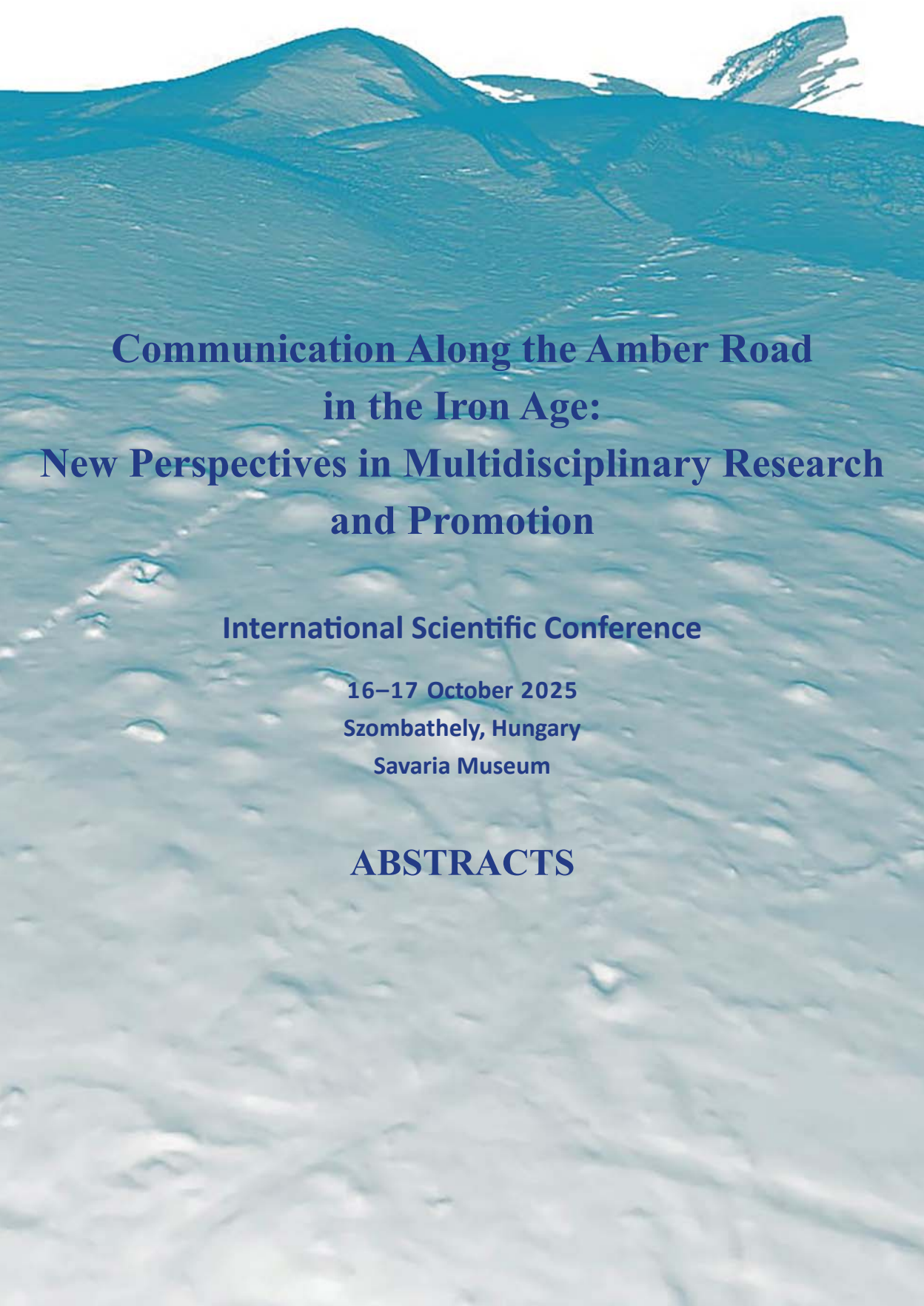


Communication Along the Amber Road in the Iron Age: New Perspectives in Multidisciplinary Research and Promotion

International Scientific Conference

16–17 October 2025

Szombathely, Hungary

Savaria Museum

ABSTRACTS

Communication Along the Amber Road in the Iron Age: New Perspectives in Multidisciplinary Research and Promotion

Communication Along the Amber Road in the Iron Age: New Perspectives in Multidisciplinary Research and Promotion

International Scientific Conference

16–17 October 2025
Szombathely, Hungary
Savaria Museum

ABSTRACTS

2025

The event is financed by the Iron Age Danube Route Association,
the Savaria Museum, and the University of Ljubljana, and co-financed by
the National Cultural Fund of Hungary (NKA)

Cover illustration:
The tumulus field of Felsőcsatár, Világosi-erdő (Attila Botond Szilasi)

Organisers:
Erzsébet Jerem, Andrea Csapláros, Szilvia Fábián, Katalin Wollák,
Matija Črešnar, Szabolcs Czifra

Editors:
Szabolcs Czifra, Szilvia Fábián, Erzsébet Jerem

ISBN 978-615-5766-83-1

The conference organisers take no responsibility for the content of the abstracts.

ARCHAEOLINGUA FOUNDATION

H-1067 Budapest, Teréz krt. 13.
Managing Director: Erzsébet Jerem

Copy editor: Kyra Lyublyanovics
Desktop editing and layout by Rita Kovács

Printed in Hungary by Copy General Zrt.

Contents

Preface

The Iron Age Danube Route Association (IADRA) Scientific Committee has nurtured the idea of organising an Iron Age conference since long. The successful collaboration and shared commitment with the Savaria Museum in Szombathely during the application and preparatory stages, together with the support of the University of Ljubljana, have ultimately led to the realisation of this meeting.

Accordingly, both the place and date of the conference are reflected in its title, *Communication Along the Amber Road in the Iron Age: New Perspectives in Multidisciplinary Research and Promotion*, which will take place at the Savaria Museum in Szombathely on 16–17 October 2025.

The foundation of IADRA was preceded by the successful implementation of the Iron Age Danube Interreg project (2017–2021), which, in line with its objectives, involved frequent meetings among researchers in the form of workshops and camps. However, during the preparation to become the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe and the establishment of the Association, in-person interactions became relatively rare, and the topic could only be kept alive through the organisation of sessions at large conferences.

Given that in recent years the financial and technical resources available for archaeological excavations and post-excavation analyses have changed rapidly and at differing scales by region, it seemed all the more justified focusing this conference on two main aspects: the presentation of new research and results and the reports on various forms of touristic utilisation. Digital posters encompassing a wide range of additional topics complement the presentations.

Methodologies have continued to evolve and expand. Aerial laser scanning and non-invasive geophysical techniques in particular have revolutionised the study of Hallstatt Period tumulus cemeteries, so common in the Alpine foreland. Quite literally, a new window has opened onto these sites: we can now observe, in three dimensions and from a wide perspective, locations once hidden deep within dense forests and sites scarcely known before. Their interpretation has been further enhanced, even without excavation, by a wide array of non-invasive geophysical applications. The internal structure of graves can now be studied, at least in part, without excavation, and recent investigations have produced astonishing results concerning settlement networks and long-distance trade routes extending hundreds, sometimes even thousands of kilometres.

Several conference papers address these developments, while the opening lecture follows a train of thought and a set of questions that illustrate the countless stages and diverse activities of the journey from site discovery to presentation and touristic interpretation. These lectures also highlight that only coordinated cooperation and collaborative work can lead to success.

Accordingly, another group of presentations focuses on visitor centres, touristic utilisation, and the benefits archaeology brings to society. This field has gained significant ground in recent years and places an even greater responsibility on archaeologists and the experts of a variety of fields working alongside them to communicate and interpret excavation and research results in an effective and accessible manner. Archaeology is an integrative discipline that, by its very nature, demands close collaboration among its practitioners. It also calls for restraint in interpretation and vigilance in filtering out the ideological currents of both past and present. This holds for bioarchaeology, the study of cultural identity, and the development and interpretation of migration models alike. Choosing and adhering to the right research strategy applies not only to excavation, conservation, reconstruction, and the storage of large datasets but to every stage of this long and complex process, including on-site and museum presentation.

We hope that this conference will contribute to the discussion of these issues and to the successful implementation of both existing and planned projects related to them.

Erzsébet Jerem
Vice President of the IADRA Scientific Committee

COMMUNICATION ALONG THE AMBER ROAD IN THE IRON AGE: NEW PERSPECTIVES IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND PROMOTION

International Scientific Conference Programme

16–17 OCTOBER 2025

Savaria Museum, Rákóczi Ferenc u. 12., Szombathely, HU-9700

DAY 1 — Thursday, 16.10.2025

09:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:15 Opening speeches

| 10:15 – 12:30 SESSION 1: Multidisciplinary Research
(Session chair: Erzsébet Jerem)

10:15 – 10:40 Keynote Matija Črešnar: *Communicating Methodologies in Research, Protection, and Promotion of the Early Iron Age Heritage (in the Danube Region)*

10:40 – 10:55 Janja Mavrović Mokos: *From Houses and Forge to a Ritual Structure – New Research on the Late Hallstatt Site Sveti Križ, Croatia*

10:55 – 11:10 László Kolonits: *Ancient Burial Mounds on the Outskirts of the Vas-hegy (Eisenberg): New Insights in Light of the Interreg Project ArcheoROUTE*

11:10 – 11:15 Discussion

11:15 – 11:35 Coffee break

11:35 – 11:50 Hrvoje Potrebica: *Recent Research of the Iron Age in the Golden Valley*

11:50 – 12:05 Bence Soós – Gábor János Tarbay – Tamás Péterváry: *Somló Hill in the Early Iron Age*

12:05 – 12:20 Domagoj Perkić – Marko Dizdar – Hrvoje Potrebica: *Iron Age of the Southern Adriatic – Recent Discoveries and New Paradigms*

12:20 – 12:30 Discussion and closing remarks

| 12:30 – 13:00 SESSION 2: Poster Presentations by Flash Talks
(Session chair: Szilvia Fábián)

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break – Finger-food lunch

| 14:00 – 16:45 SESSION 3: Archaeological Tourism
(Session chair: Szabolcs Czifra)

14:00 – 14:25 Keynote Ágnes Nóra Raffay-Danyi: *Creative Touristic Utilisation of Archaeological Heritage*

14:25 – 14:40 Christa Fürnkranz: *Legendary Landscapes – Exploring the Region, Discovering the Past. Bridging Local Tales, History, and Archaeology to Promote Cultural Heritage*

14:40 – 14:55 Daniel Modl: *35 Years of the Hallstatt Museum Großklein (hamuG), Styria, Austria*

14:55 – 15:10 Maja Turnšek – Metka Dernovšek – Iana Bilynets: *Cultural Routes as International Policy Instruments: State of the Art in Current Research and Route Management Recommendations*

15:10 – 15:15 Discussion

15:15 – 15:35 Coffee break

15:35 – 15:50 Anja Mlakar: *Reimagining the Iron Age: Reenactment, Visitors, and Community Heritage at Rifnik*

15:50 – 16:05 Petra Stipančić: *Cultural Bridges: Novo Mesto's Archaeological Heritage as a Tourism Magnet*

16:05 – 16:20 Kristina Rupert: *Archaeological Site Kaptol – Potential for the Development of Cultural Tourism in the Tourist Destination Zlatni Papuk (Croatia)*

16:20 – 16:35 Andrea Csapláros: *The Importance of Archaeological Projects for Tourism in Vas County*

16:35 – 16:45 Discussion and closing remarks

| 18:00 – 19:00 GUIDED TOUR at the Iseum (Guide: Szilvia Bíró)

| 19:00 – 22:00 SOCIAL DINNER (based on Roman recipes, at the Iseum)

DAY 2 — Friday, 17.10.2025

| 9:00 – 10:00 **GUIDED TOUR** at the Savaria Museum
(Guide: László Kolonits)

| 10:10 – 11:00 **SESSION 4: Archaeological Heritage**
(Session chair: Katalin Wollák)

10:10 – 10:30 Karina Grömer: *Cultural Heritage, Research and Science Communication Activities at the Natural History Museum Vienna*

10:30 – 10:50 Georg Tiefengraber: *UNESCO Site Hallstatt – Latest Approaches in Research and Heritage Protection*

10:50 – 11:00 Discussion and closing remarks

11.00 – 12:00 Lunch break – Finger-food lunch

| 12:00 – 17:00 **EXCURSION** to Velem – Vaskeresztes-Felsőcsatár – Schandorf – Burg (Guides: Károly Tankó, László Kolonits, Attila Botond Szilasi)

The event is financed by the Iron Age Danube Route Association, the Savaria Museum, and the University of Ljubljana, and co-financed by the National Cultural Fund of Hungary (NKA)

Abstracts

MATIJA ČREŠNAR

Communicating Methodologies in Research, Protection and Promotion of Early Iron Age Heritage (in the Danube Region)

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology,
Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Archaeology (CIRA)
matija.cresnar@gmail.com

Keywords: interdisciplinary archaeology, archaeological landscapes, heritage protection & promotion, EU projects, public archaeology

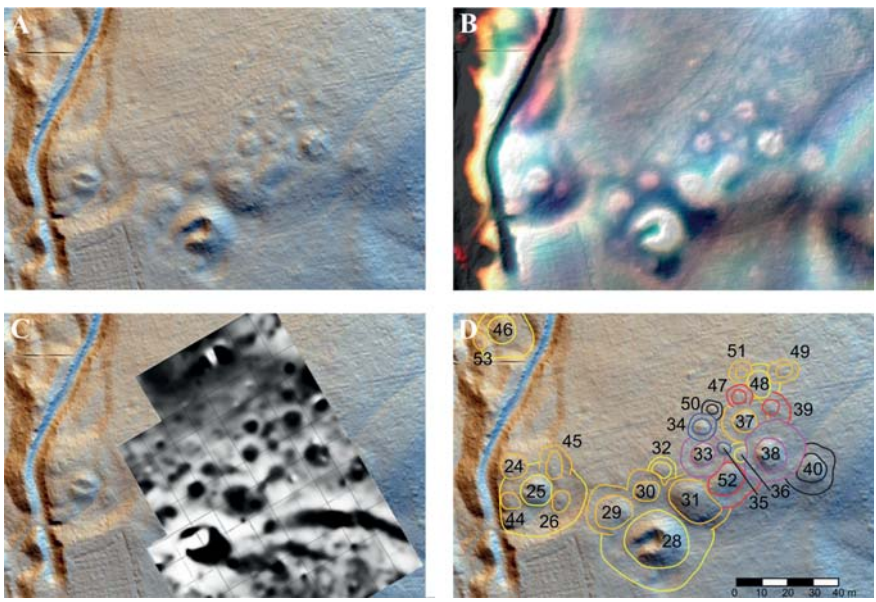
When examining popular publications on the (Early) Iron Age, or even textbooks for primary and secondary schools (at least in Slovenia), the narrative is often dominated by hillforts and burial mounds, with a strong emphasis on elites and the hierarchisation of society. We must acknowledge that these topics have also been the main focus of our discipline for most of its existence. There are valid reasons for this; however, we are now witnessing changes in our field, driven by technical and methodological advances in archaeology and related sciences. Archaeology is embarking on an exciting new interdisciplinary path, which we must pursue together – excavators, researchers, curators, conservators, tourism specialists and others. The key word here is communication, both within the archaeological community and across all related disciplines, as well as with broader interested audiences. Otherwise, most scientific achievements will remain confined to our closed circles, and no one will be more adversely affected by this than our highly valued Early Iron Age archaeological heritage.

The European archaeological community is highly interconnected, even more so since the establishment of the EAA, which has provided the wider community with opportunities to communicate, exchange knowledge, ideas, expertise and more. However, the most significant boost, at least in our SE Alpine community, has come from several national and international, mostly European, funding schemes (HERA, INTERREG, WEAVE, HORIZON, etc.). These have enabled us to conduct joint interdisciplinary research and to explore different approaches to heritage protection, promotion and touristic use. In many ways, this has significantly changed how we perceive archaeological heritage.

The research focus has shifted from individual sites to broader archaeological landscapes, while at the same time, almost every find or context can now be broken down into components and analysed from multiple perspectives. So, what can be done with the data? We can publish scientific articles on highly specific subjects

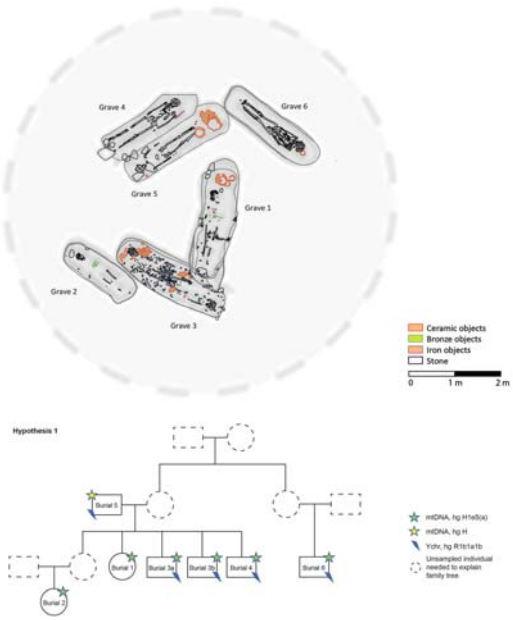
and/or on complex research decisions. However, in the end, we must return to reality and recognise that archaeological science does not exist in isolation. We must ask ourselves whether our work is important in the broader context. Do we know and understand more about our (archaeological) past? Furthermore, what aspects of this are applicable to the heritage protection sector, which is under more pressure than ever, or to the rapidly expanding field of cultural tourism? Is our experience in the region shared, or does it differ?

Focusing mainly on our research in Slovenia, we will attempt to summarise our recent interdisciplinary experience in researching Early Iron Age heritage, as well as its protection, promotion and touristic use. We will also address the challenging question of how to move from individual case studies to a more systematic approach that would be effective not only in Slovenia but also in the wider region. Most likely, there is only one key message to take away: we must communicate – and work together – even more.



Habakuk cemetery below Poštela hillfort (Štajerska region, NE Slovenia). The northern barrow group provided an ideal setting for the multi-method approach, enabling the proposal of a chronological sequence of barrows based on non-invasive investigations. A – shaded DTM; B – local relief analysis (produced by D. Mlekuž); C – results of magnetic measurements; D – 'horizontal stratigraphy' of a group of mounds with relative construction phases (sequence: yellow – orange – red – magenta – blue; black-coloured barrows are not sufficiently dated) (after Črešnar – Vinazza – Mušič 2019; Mušič – Horn – Črešnar 2024)

Pungrt hillfort above Ig (Central Slovenia). The first extensively researched urban hillfort in Slovenia also served as a case study for the systematic use of geoarchaeological methods in Early Iron Age studies in Slovenia. A) the fortification system and a series of Late Hallstatt buildings lining a 55 m-long stretch of gravel road 1 on the lowest terrace; B) vertical micromorphological block sampling in a 1.5 m-deep section of road 1; C) horizontal micro-refuse and geochemical sampling in a 1 × 1 m grid within buildings 18 and 19 (photographs by N. Ciglar and L. Gruškovnjak) (after Prijatelj et al. 2024)



Dolge njive cemetery below Veliki Vinji vrh hillfort (Dolenjska region, SE Slovenia). Plan of the excavated graves within Barrow 1 and the putative 'family tree' based on the aDNA results (after Armit et al. 2023)

JANJA MAVROVIĆ MOKOS

From Houses and Forge to a Ritual Structure – New Research on the Late Hallstatt Site Sveti Križ, Croatia

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
jmavrovi@m.ffzg.hr

Keywords: Iron Age settlements, craftsmanship, metalworking, prehistoric trade routes, heritage promotion

Sveti Križ is one of the most important archaeological sites in the area of Prigorje, more precisely the part of Croatia near Zagreb that is located near the border with today's Slovenia. This area was very important in prehistory because, with the control of the Sava Valley, the so-called "Brežice Gate" and the confluence of the river Sutla and the Sava, they supervised the routes of exchange and trade along the Sava River all the way to the Danube. Due to the unique helmet of the Sveti Križ type, which was found in a male grave in 2001, this site is known to archaeologists, not only in Croatia, but also throughout Europe. In addition to that famous grave, two houses from the 5th century BC have been excavated in the last six years, showing the construction techniques and skills of the artisans of that time, including a ritual structure, a forge, a smiting hearth and a dug-in workspace. In the ritual structure, a rich assortment of archaeological artifacts graced the interior, encompassing animal bones, stone tools, spindle whorls, and an array of metal objects. Notably, the unearthing of a substantial number of fibulae hinted at connections reaching into northern Italy and along the eastern coast of the Adriatic. Inside the forge we found the evidence of ore processing were found a large amount of slag, along with a bloom, a semifinished product and a bronze ingot.

Due to the importance of the site and the findings, especially the unique helmet of the Sveti Križ type, we have conceived various events aimed at popularizing archaeology: workshops for children like weaving, pottery and 3D modeling, educational lectures for adults and a jewel collection inspired by the above mentioned unique helmet.

Decorated Early Iron Age bone artefact

LÁSZLÓ KOLONITS

Ancient Burial Mounds on the Outskirts of the Vas-hegy (Eisenberg): New Insights in Light of the Interreg Project ArcheoROUTE

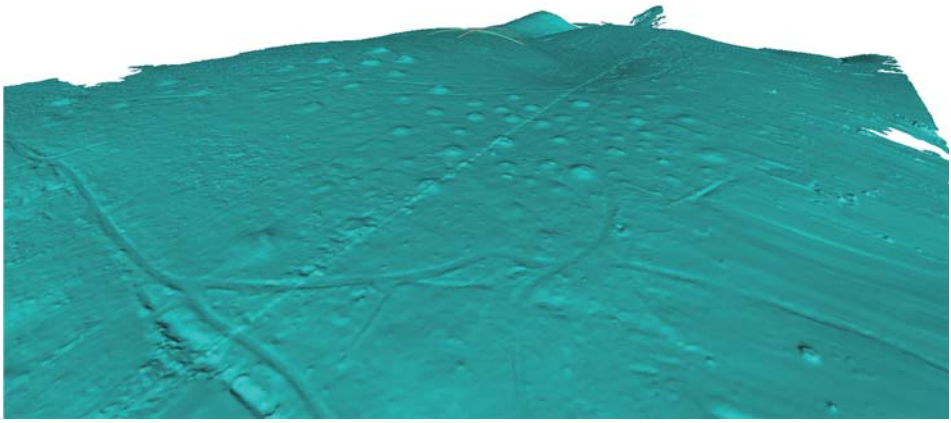
Savaria Museum
kolonits@gmail.com

Keywords: Eisenberg, burial mound, tumuli, grave goods, LiDAR, magnetometry, GPR

The Vas-hegy (Eisenberg), a region historically renowned for viticulture, is today divided between Austria and Hungary as a result of the Treaty of Trianon. It's surrounding area contains several hundred burial mounds within a 2–3 km radius. On the Austrian side, near Csém (Schandorf), twentieth-century archaeological investigations identified 232 tumulus graves across five cemeteries, along with an additional 30 mounds on the eastern outskirts of Pöszöny (Badersdorf). Of the mounds documented near Schandorf, 90 have been dated to the Roman Imperial period, while 142 belong to the Early Iron Age and are associated with the Eastern-Hallstatt circle.

On the Hungarian side, the most prominent discoveries are the two large tumuli excavated between 1978 and 1979 at the Diófás-dűlő site near Vaskeresztes. These are notable for their dry-stone walled burial chambers and the high-quality grave goods recovered, including tin-foil decorated pottery, red- and black-painted ceramics, and vessels adorned with animal protomes. Associated with these finds are three almost completely destroyed burial mounds at Vaskeresztes–Hosszúföldek, investigated in parallel with the aforementioned excavations. At Felsőcsatár, the tumulus group in the Világosi-erdő was surveyed in 1979 and in 2006 using analogue methods, resulting in the documentation of 78 mounds. Most recently, in 2021, a previously undocumented (burial?) mound was identified in a forested area known as Glavice near Felsőcsatár.

As part of the Interreg project ArcheoROUTE – initiated as a continuation of the earlier ArcheON initiative – a series of non-invasive archaeological investigations were carried out on the Hungarian side in 2025. LiDAR surveys were conducted at Vaskeresztes (Diófás-dűlő and Hosszúföldek) and Felsőcsatár (Világosi-erdő and Glavice). In addition, 8,159 m² of the Világosi-erdő were investigated using magnetometry, and a further 577 m² were surveyed with ground-penetrating radar. As a result, we have a clearer picture of the sites in the area.



The tumulus field of Felsőcsatár, Világosi-erdő (Attila Botond Szilasi)

HRVOJE POTREBICA

Recent Research of the Iron Age in the Golden Valley

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Department of Archaeology
hpotrebica@m.ffzg.hr

Keywords: Kaptol, Kagovac, fortified settlement, mounds, Hallstatt

In last ten years, the research of the Iron Age in the Požega Valley concentrated mainly on two sites: the fortified settlement in Kaptol and burial mound necropolis in Kagovac, six kilometres east of Kaptol. The research on the settlement revealed at least two horizons. The earlier one is dated to the time of tumuli (ca. 8th – middle of the 6th century BC), while the later phase overlaps with the earlier settlement, at least in some places, and can be dated to the Ha D2 - Lt B1 period. This is a settlement with an almost urban layout and a regular internal organisation, made visible by geophysical survey in the previous years. It seems that the crisis that ended the Eastern Hallstatt Circle in the middle of the 6th century BC had different effects at this location. The settlement was reorganized and was apparently flourishing in a period when most of the Hallstatt centres ceased to exist in the Carpathian Basin. Interestingly, southern influences characteristic of the so-called Srijem Culture appear here. Since this phenomenon was observed in a large area and for a period of at least two centuries, I suggest to introduce the term “Middle Iron Age”.

The site of Kagovac proved to be equally interesting. This site, just like Kaptol, consists of two mound necropolises and a fortified settlement. Four tumuli have been excavated so far in the western necropolis, yielding finds that are equally significant and contemporaneous with the graves at the Kaptol necropolises. The southern necropolis consists of a group of small, almost invisible mounds. However, the one we excavated proved to be as rich as the most intriguing warrior graves in the Kaptol necropolises. We still have to provide a plausible model to explain the coexistence of two powerful centres in such a small distance.

Fragment of a decorated pottery (University of Zagreb, Department of Archaeology)

Excavating an Early Iron Age burial (University of Zagreb, Department of Archaeology)

BENCE SOÓS[1] – GÁBOR JÁNOS TARBAY – TAMÁS PÉTERVÁRY

Somló Hill in the Early Iron Age

[1] Hungarian National Museum, National Institute of Archaeology
soos.bence@mnm.hu

Keywords: Somló Hill, Hallstatt culture, elite, tumulus burials, cultural networks

Somló Hill has been regarded as one of the most important Early Iron Age sites in western Hungary since the late 19th century. Early excavations firmly established the landscape around Somló as an area where powerful Early Iron Age elites constructed monumental tumuli. Horse harness fittings, diverse weapon sets, and bronze vessels found in these graves indicate that prominent groups around Somló were integrated into elite networks of the eastern Hallstatt zone. However, the frequent presence of Mindelheim-type iron swords in local burial assemblages and the remains of a four-wheeled wagon in Tumulus 1 near Somlóvásárhely clearly distinguish this elite group from other Early Iron Age communities in western Hungary and even beyond.

Despite these outstanding discoveries, during the 20th century no systematic field research was conducted. While the burials near Somló became well-known among international researchers, no information was available regarding the Early Iron Age settlements, especially the elevated settlement on Somló identified by topographic research in the 70s.

In early 2023, a new research programme was launched to explore the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age inhabitation of the site. In this paper, we set out to outline the current knowledge about the Early Iron Age habitation on Somló. Our main focus is to demonstrate how the settlement material complements our notion of local elites maintaining and communicating via long-ranging contacts.

The Somló Hill (Zsolt Vasáros)

Early Iron Age bronze cauldron from the Somló area
(László György, Hungarian National Musem)

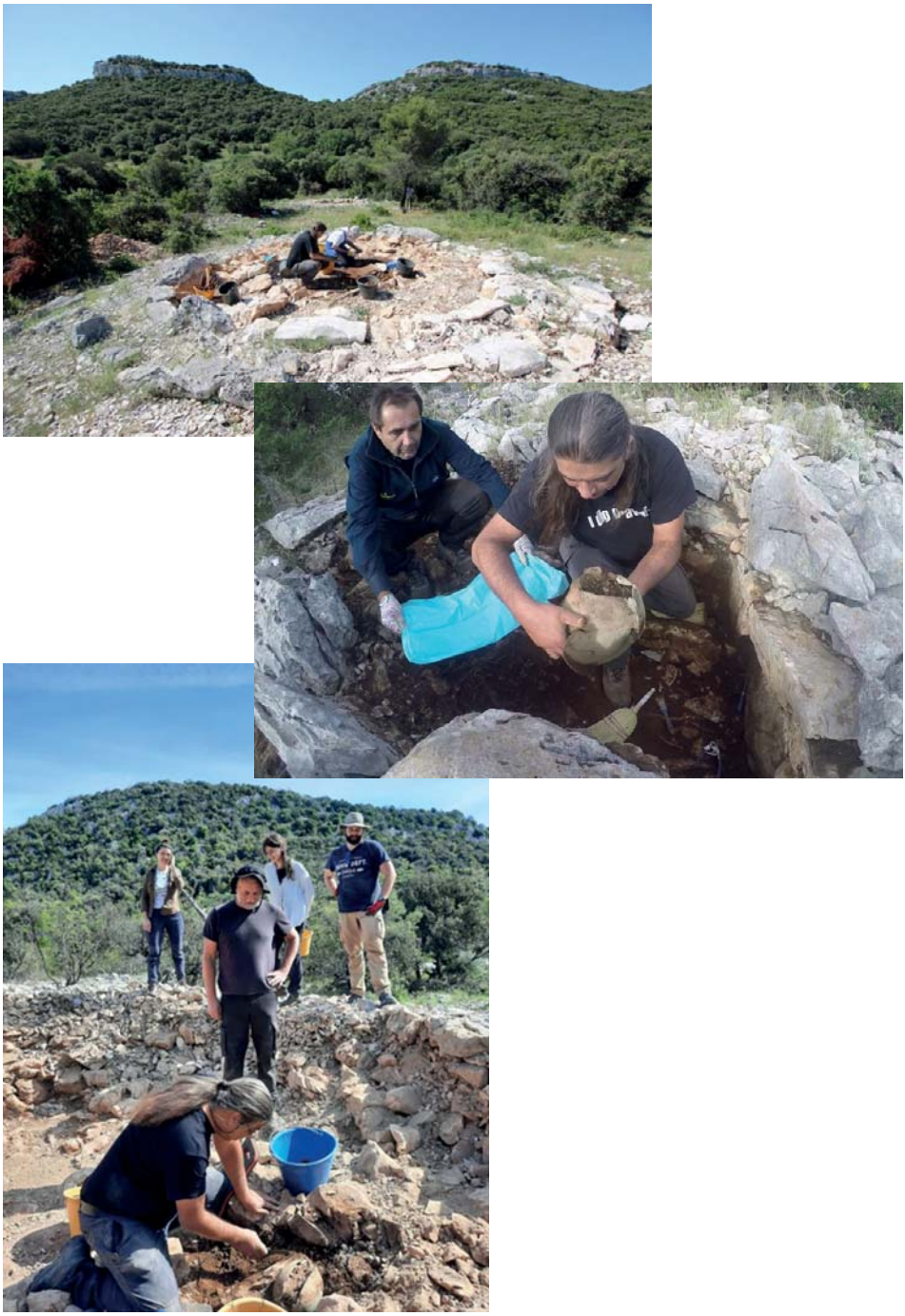
DOMAGOJ PERKIĆ[1] – MARKO DIZDAR[2] – HRVOJE POTREBICA[3]

Iron Age of the Southern Adriatic – Recent Discoveries and New Paradigms

[1] Dubrovnik Museums
domagoj.perkic@gmail.com
[2] Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb
marko.dizdar@iarh.hr
[3] University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Department of Archaeology
hpotrebica@m.ffzg.hr

Keywords: Iron Age, Adriatic, stone mounds, graves, Zakotorac, Nakovana, Hellenism

In the southern part of Croatia, with its coast, islands and hinterland, no intensive research of Iron Age sites has been conducted so far. The few finds discovered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were assumed to originate from destroyed graves (i.e. Ston), and were analysed with those originating from sites located in the Lower Neretva River valley and Herzegovina. Although this is a poorly known legacy, some of its peculiarities have been observed, because of the position on the borders of the defined cultural groups of the Iron Age – the Central Dalmatian, Gorica and Glasinac. Finds dated to the last centuries of the 1st millennium BCE were attributed to communities known from ancient sources, of which the Daorsi and Plerei stand out. However, in more recent research, this cultural and historical narrative has been critically examined. This was the reason for the start of systematic research in 2020 on the Pelješac peninsula at two sites – Gomile in Zakotorac and Zmijna in Nakovana where complex cultural landscapes were recognized and which are not known in other parts of the eastern Adriatic coast. The settlement of Grad near Nakovana is a prominent hillfort settlement with dozens of stone mounds in surroundings as well as an Illyrian cave sanctuary. Flat graves have also been found between mounds, dating from the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age. The research results conducted at the Gomile in Zakotorac necropolis testify to complex funerary practices and architecture. So far we excavated five mounds and a few dry-stone tombs. The mounds contained several graves each, with a number of deceased, and the finds dating from the 6th to the 3rd/2nd century BC. Some groups of finds show local origin and distribution, but we also found items characteristic of the neighbouring cultural areas of the Iron Age: the Eastern Adriatic *koine* and the Glasinac culture that spread across the western and central Balkans.



Archaeological excavations on the Pelješac Peninsula (Dobrovnik Museums)

ÁGNES RAFFAY-DANYI

Creative Touristic Utilization of Archaeological Heritage

University of Pannonia, Faculty of Business and Economics
raffay.agnes@gtk.uni-pannon.hu

Keywords: archaeological heritage, branding, interpretation, visitor experience

Archaeological remains are among the key assets for heritage tourism, in some countries archaeological sites are primary attractions and form the basis of the tourism industry. Archaeology-based tourism is a form of heritage tourism that focuses on visits to archaeological sites, parks and excavations, is sensitive to the delicate archaeological environment, and stimulates learning about past human activity.

Archaeological heritage is often used for branding purposes by national tourism organisations. Furthermore, many of the world's greatest archaeological sites are inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List which can improve the visibility and appeal of the sites to the international travel market. Establishing networks of archaeological sites such as the European cultural routes serves similar purposes, these also enhance the recognition of archaeological heritage and stimulates touristic development in the destination.

While at macro level archaeological heritage provides the foundation of tourism products and the core element of branding activities, at site level, the creative utilization of archaeological heritage focuses on creating memorable visitor experience. A wide range of creative interpretation tools can shape visitor experience. It includes public archaeology, where archaeologists, site managers, local residents and tourists work together to create an archaeological heritage experience. Technological advancements also provide a plethora of opportunities for archaeological heritage-based tourism: the use of virtual and augmented reality technology, holographic characters and 3D versions of ancient ruins are getting popular tools of heritage interpretation. Besides adding to visitor experience, such technological solutions can also assist in mitigating the potential impacts of increased touristic activities.

The current study aims to discuss good practices of creative touristic utilization of archaeological heritage.

Visitors at the Roman Villa Baláca (Veszprém-Balaton 2023)

CHRISTA FÜRNKRANZ

Legendary Landscapes – Exploring the Region, Discovering the Past. Bridging Local Tales, History, and Archaeology to Promote Cultural Heritage

HistAK Neumarkt – Historical Working Group Neumarkter Hochtal
cfuernkranz@histak.at

Keywords: Austria, archaeological tourism, heritage interpretation, digital storytelling, Legendary Landscapes project

Since its foundation in 2015, the HistAK Neumarkt (local historical association) has been dedicated to archaeological and historical research into the early settlement history of the region.

With the 'Legendary Landscapes' project, the working group aims to communicate the cultural heritage of the region in an innovative and accessible way. At the heart of the project is a mobile app that allows users to immerse themselves in history in an entertaining and informative way while hiking or exploring the landscape. Central elements of the app are local myths and legends, which serve as a narrative introduction to archaeological and historical contexts. This narrative approach creates emotional connections, arouses curiosity and appeals to a wide audience – especially those who have had little contact with archaeology or regional history. In his presentation, Christian Fürnkranz will introduce the app and the project behind it and highlight the methodological and organisational factors that led to its realisation.

In particular, she will examine the conditions that contributed significantly to the successful implementation of the project – from raising awareness among the local population to cooperation with tourism and the local economy to interdisciplinary collaboration between historians, archaeologists and IT experts. Finally, Fürnkranz will reflect on the extent to which the concept can be transferred to other regions and provide impulses for similar projects.

The project is a prime example of how cultural heritage can be brought to life and preserved in the long term through creative and digital approaches – a model that effectively combines tradition and innovation.

Participants of the Legendary Landscape project (HistAK Neumarkt)

DANIEL MODL

35 Years of the Hallstatt Museum Großklein (hamuG), Styria, Austria

Universalmuseum Joanneum, Department of Archaeology & Coin Cabinet
daniel.modl@museum-joanneum.at

Keywords: Early Iron Age, princely graves, archaeological museum, open-air museum, cultural tourism

The Burgstallkogel near Großklein in southern Styria is one of the most prominent archaeological sites of the Early Iron Age in Europe. With almost 700 preserved burial mounds surrounding a hilltop settlement on the summit of the Burgstallkogel, the ridge between the Sulm and Saggau rivers is one of the best-preserved archaeological landscapes of this period. The four princely graves in Kleinklein – the tumuli Hartnermichelkogel 1 and 2, Pommerkogel and Kröllkogel – lie separately from the rest of the Early Iron Age necropolis at the eastern entrance to the settlement. Due to the extraordinary grave goods, including the famous mask and hands from Kröllkogel, they are among the richest graves of this period.

Because of the archaeological site's scientific importance, a museum was opened in Grossklein in 1990, and a hiking trail around the Burgstallkogel was established in the same year. In 2003 and 2019, the museum was expanded, and the permanent exhibition was redesigned in line with the latest archaeological research results. Despite its name, the municipality of Großklein is rather small. This makes it all the more remarkable that it has been running a museum with its limited budget since 1990.

Furthermore, in 2004, an archaeological open-air museum of the early Iron Age was also established on the Burgstallkogel. The homestead consists of a residential building, a weaving house, a bakery, and a granary.

Since its establishment 35 years ago, the Hallstatt museum in Großklein, today shortly called "hamuG", has been committed to preserving, communicating and presenting the rich archaeological heritage of Großklein and the surrounding area.

Accordingly, the museum partners with the Universalmuseum Joanneum in Graz, is well networked internationally, and, together with the municipality of Großklein, is part of the "Iron Age Danube Route." For the municipality of Großklein, membership in the Iron Age Danube Route is an opportunity to strengthen the region as an important archaeological destination and to promote sustainable cultural tourism.

The Hallstatt museum in Großklein (hamuG) after the redesign in 2019. (Universalmuseum Joanneum)

Grand opening of the museum as part of a large celebration on May 6, 1990. (Universalmuseum Joanneum, Archaeology & Coin Cabinet, Archive)

Early Iron Age farmstead on the Burgstallkogel. (Universalmuseum Joanneum/Marko Mele)

MAJA TURNŠEK[1] – METKA DERNOVŠEK[1] – IANA BILYNETS[2]

Cultural Routes as International Policy Instruments: State of the Art in Current Research and Route Management Recommendations

[1] University of Maribor, Faculty of Tourism
maja.turnsek@um.si
[2] University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics

Keywords: cultural routes, international policy, governance instruments, cultural governance

The paper presents a literature review of European programmes for heritage popularisation and thus communication to broader audiences: Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, European Heritage Days, European Heritage Label, European Heritage Awards, European Capitals of Culture.

First, we present a broad overview of programmes and the current state of the art in research on the impacts of the programmes. Second, we focus more specifically on the systematic literature review of research on Cultural Routes of Council of Europe as an international policy instrument, which, even though formally belongs to the Council of Europe, relies heavily on funding by the European Union, and therefore navigates the policy goals of both international governance entities. The review serves to provide recommendations for future research by identifying research gaps in analysing both the aims and the impacts of the identified programmes. And finally, the review serves to provide practical recommendations for Iron Age Danube Route on future route management.

The paper is an output of a national research project funded by the Slovenian research and Innovation Agency: J7-4641 Heritage for Inclusive Sustainable Transformation - HEI-TRANSFORM.

Photo taken during the HEI-Transform project workshop on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Slovenia, Ljubljana, 13 February 2024 (Anja Mlakar)

ANJA MLAKAR

Reimagining the Iron Age: Reenactment, Visitors, and Community Heritage at Rifnik

University of Maribor, Faculty of Tourism
anja.mlakar2@um.si

Keywords: reenactments, archaeological heritage, community engagement, stakeholder collaboration, heritage mediation

The presentation will address the heritage dynamics of *Celtic Days*, a festival organized at the archaeological site of Rifnik in Eastern Slovenia. Although Rifnik is best known as a Late Antique settlement, local organizers have framed the site primarily through the lens of the Iron Age by reenacting the 'Celtic' past. The event – featuring reenactments, craft demonstrations, and family-oriented activities – is developed independently of heritage professionals or institutions. This raises important questions regarding agency in heritage creation and the role of popular imagination in (re)shaping academic narratives.

Based on interviews with the organisers and participants this study will examine the motivations behind the creation of the festival, the interpretive approaches used to present the past, and the divergence between academic knowledge and grassroots historical imagery. It will investigate how the reenactment of a selectively imagined Iron Age past contributes to local identity and emotional connectedness with place. Attention will also be given to the chronological hybridity (i.e. combining different periods in a single event) that often accompanies such festivals is justified by the organisers and the participants.

While being primarily a local event, *Celtic Days* has attracted growing interest from regional visitors and may be seen as an example of bottom-up heritage practice that holds potential for cultural tourism. The presentation will therefore also address how local actors negotiate authenticity, educational aspects of the festival, and entertainment, as well as trying to understand their perspectives regarding the festival's economic sustainability, branding potential, and broader relevance for the community.

The case of Rifnik will therefore address topics of emotional uses of the past, invention of tradition as well as heritage management and usage for touristic purposes.

Celtic Day at Rifnik (Kvirina Martina Zupanc)

PETRA STIPANČIĆ

Cultural Bridges: Novo Mesto's Archaeological Heritage as a Tourism Magnet

Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto
petra.stipancic@dolenjskimuzej.si

Keywords: Novo Mesto, Situlae Festival, Iron Age, cultural event

Museums have a great deal of important archaeological information that they can use, in the form of public archaeology, to establish a partnership with the local community in order to foster a better understanding of archaeological heritage and to protect and preserve that heritage in its original environment, which is the basis for understanding the past.

In collaboration with the Municipality of Novo Mesto and Zavod Svitar, the Dolenjski muzej Novo Mesto has created a Festival of Iron Age Life and Culinary (Praznik situl – Situlae Festival), which offers visitors a full-day experience of Dolenjska's rich archaeological heritage.

The festival signals Novo Mesto's surefooted arrival on the national and international events map, helping to bring a lively pulse to the town, develop cultural tourism, and create a pleasant atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Praznik Situl is an event imbued with Dolenjska's cultural and natural heritage, complemented by a new urban perspective. The Festival of Iron Age Life and Culinary has taken place every June since 2016.

Praznik Situl is an international festival as, every year, it features guests from abroad from the fields of experimental archaeology, the interpretation of archaeological heritage and ancient handicrafts.

Bronze vessels - situlae, Novo Mesto, Kandija and Kapiteljska njiva (Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto)

Living history on Situlae Festival (Dolenjski muzej Novo mesto)

KRISTINA RUPERT

Archaeological Site Kaptol – Potential for the Development of Cultural Tourism in the Tourist Destination Zlatni Papuk (Croatia)

Zlatni Papuk Tourist Board
krupert@zlatni-papuk.hr

Keywords: cultural tourism, Croatia, Zlatni Papuk, archaeological heritage, Iron Age Danube Route

The main goal of this presentation is to showcase the development of a part of the tourist offer in the Zlatni Papuk destination (Croatia), based on the archaeological site of Kaptol. Work on the development of this type of cultural tourism began in 2018 with the implementation of the international project "Iron-Age-Danube" and includes several phases:

1.) Phase before the establishment of the tourist board – voluntary work by individuals
2.) Phase after the establishment of the tourist board – the "Iron Age Danube Route" Association
3.) Plans for the future

In this presentation, the author will cover all aspects of the development of cultural tourism based on the Kaptol Archaeological Site: education of the local population in cooperation with schools, collaboration with scientific and cultural institutions, development of a stakeholder network, development of a living history festival "Hallstatt Days", promotional activities, cooperation with partners from the "Iron Age Danube" Association, as well as planning and collaboration with local government in further tourism development in the Zlatni Papuk destination.

It is important to emphasize that all activities related to the development of this type of tourism offer are carried out in agreement and cooperation with the scientific team, thereby providing visitors with access to the results of scientific research in an appropriate and engaging way. This contributes to the authenticity of the experience.

A visit to destination Zlatni Papuk offers the opportunity to experience the preserved nature of the Papuk Nature Park / UNESCO Global Geopark Papuk, learn about the local history of the region, taste local products, and get a sense of the everyday life of the local population.

Fashion show at Kaptol (Zlatni Papuk Tourist Board)

CSAPLÁROS ANDREA

The Importance of Archaeological Projects for Tourism in Vas County

Savaria Museum
csaplaros.andrea@savariamuseum.hu

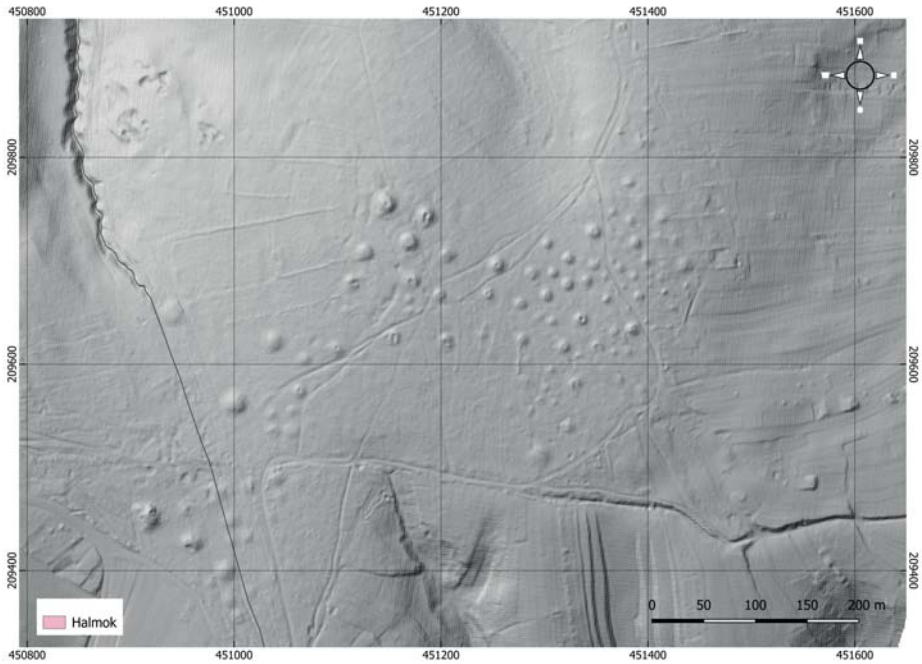
Keywords: archaeological heritage, sustainable tourism, cross-border cooperation, heritage preservation, digital archaeology

The area of southern Burgenland and Vas County is one of the richest regions in terms of historical and archaeological treasures. This area, which has been divided by a national border for a century, had constituted shared territory since the Neolithic period. Archaeology is therefore an indispensable driver of sustainable tourism, offering profound scientific and social benefits that go far beyond economic returns. It generates significant direct and indirect income, creates a wide range of jobs and facilitates regional development. At the same time, archaeological research provides crucial insights into human history and past adaptation strategies that are relevant to today's challenges. By focusing on sustainable practices and actively involving local communities, archaeology makes a significant contribution to the protection of cultural heritage and the strengthening of local identity. European research programmes such as Interreg and Horizon Europe illustrate these synergies through concrete projects that successfully implement innovative communication approaches and cross-border cooperation.

The Savaria Museum participates in several Interreg and Horizon Europe projects with an archaeological focus (e.g., Interreg ArcheoOn, Interreg ArcheoRoute, Interreg CoMe, etc.). The main objective of the museum concept developed within the framework of these projects is to establish a methodology for the integral presentation of archaeological heritage and values. This methodology can be applied broadly to the digitisation process of each individual analogue archaeological resource, and it sets out concrete steps for defining the framework for intergenerational presentation.

The steps listed below serve as a kind of 'catalogue of criteria' for the integral (i.e. analogue and digital) presentation of archaeological values, both in terms of their content and their sequence: Preservation, monument protection; accessibility and resilience; consideration of social inclusion; financial framework; prioritisation of presentation; selection of suitable digital methods; authenticity; quality; coolification and 'tuning'.

The unique role of archaeological sites and museums lies in their function as tangible witnesses to history and indispensable places of education. Archaeological heritage is crucial to understanding the collective human experience and offers profound insights into our shared history, identity and cultural diversity. It serves as a direct link to the past and connects today's societies with their ancestors.



The tumulus field of Vaskeresztes (Attila Botond Szilasi)

Roman aqueduct of Dozmat (VasiDrón)

KARINA GRÖMER

Cultural Heritage, Research and Science Communication Activities at the Natural History Museum Vienna

Natural History Museum Vienna, Department of Prehistory
karina.groemer@nhm-wien.ac.at

Keywords: prehistory, interdisciplinary research, digitization, science communication, public engagement

The Natural History Museum Vienna is housed in a building that was supposed to be a work of art in and of itself. It has significant collections that span a variety of disciplines, including biology, geology, anthropology, and archaeology. In addition to research and dissemination, the museum's primary objectives are the maintenance and expansion of its collections, as well as the conduct of research and science communication. The Natural History Museum Vienna in general is an important player in terms of cultural heritage in Austria and is characterized by the strong cooperation between the natural sciences and the humanities.

The department that realizes this high level of interdisciplinarity most strongly in its daily routine is the Prehistory Department. This department deals with the cultural heritage of mankind, which is always in interaction with the respective environment. The research concepts as well as the research methods used are also of importance, as are the various digitization strategies (e.g. via Thanados, Sketchfab, Kulturpool) to preserve our cultural heritage and make it accessible to larger sections of the population.

Various dissemination activities in science communication (lectures, workshops, events, films, podcasts etc.) serve the need of information both for the scientific community as well as the common public and local authorities. The latter are vital for our attempts of long-term preservation of cultural landscapes. For the Iron Age Danube Route, not only the collections housed at the museum in Vienna, are in focus, but also the Archaeological Research Centre at Hallstatt Salzbergtal – maintained by the NHM.

The Natural History Museum Vienna which houses a large Hallstatt-collection
(K. Kracher, NHM)

Natural History Museum Vienna, Hall 12: Media station with virtually accessible "Ramsauer-protocols" of the Hallstatt cemetery
(A. Schumacher, NHM)

GEORG TIEFENGRABER

UNESCO Site Hallstatt – Latest Approaches in Research and Heritage Protection

Natural History Museum Vienna
georg.tiefengraber@nhm.at

Keywords: Hallstatt, World Heritage Site, Bronze and Iron Age, salt mining, heritage management

The discovery and extensive excavation of the vast Iron Age necropolis in the remote Hallstatt Hochtal from the mid-19th century onwards by mining engineer Johann Georg Ramsauer yielded exceptionally rich finds. Due to these exceptional grave finds, the early Iron Age in Central Europe was designated the Hallstatt period as early as 1874. At the same time as the excavations in the burial ground, traces of prehistoric salt mining from the Bronze and Iron Ages were repeatedly uncovered and documented in the course of underground salt extraction at that time. The countless finds made from organic materials, which have been preserved by the salt, represent a unique and outstanding source of information not only about mining itself but also about the lives of the miners, thanks to their quantity, quality and diverse functional composition. Over 150 years of excavations and research have made Hallstatt one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Since 1997, Hallstatt has also been the heart of the 28,000-hectare UNESCO World Heritage Region Hallstatt-Dachstein/Salzkammergut, which is protected and managed by its own World Heritage Management. Archaeological research in Hallstatt and the World Heritage region is carried out primarily by a team from the Prehistoric Department of the Natural History Museum Vienna (NHMW), which will celebrate 100 years of cooperation with Salinen Austria in 2027. The NHMW's archaeological work includes annual underground research excavations in the Hallstatt salt mine, targeted research excavations in the Hallstatt Hochtal, which have yielded further graves and, above all, Bronze Age finds and findings, as well as further rescue excavations made necessary by numerous infrastructure and construction projects. In recent years, and especially in 2025, all these excavations have led to some sensational new discoveries that have significantly expanded and refined our understanding of the past. In addition to these regular excavations, archaeological monitoring and restoration work in the mine ensures the long-term accessibility and researchability of sites that have been known for some time. Parallel to the field research, numerous, usually interdisciplinary, processing, research and digitisation projects are underway.

The lecture will provide an overview of these projects as well as the latest results of the underground and above-ground excavations in Hallstatt and ongoing conservation and protection projects.

Grave goods from burial no. 3, Hallstatt (Natural History Museum Vienna)

The tumulus field of Schandorf (Attila Botond Szilasi)

Poster Session

ÁDÁM BEDE

The Early Iron Age connections of prehistoric mounds in the Maros–Körös Interfluve, and their touristic significance today

HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research
bedeadam@gmail.com

Keywords: kurgans, landmarks, tourist opportunities, Great Hungarian Plain

Only a few ancient architectural monuments have remained in the central Great Hungarian Plain. However, the ancient kurgans that are unique 5000-year-old manmade objects still exist and have many landscape archaeological and topographical survey prospects. The Carpathian Basin is the westernmost extent of the Yamnaya Entity, which is best known from the steppe zone of Eurasia. The Yamnaya Culture (with their mound-graves) was a nomadic community who built large burial mounds during the Late Copper and Early Bronze Ages in Eurasia.

Mounds of the Maros-Körös Interfluve were often used in secondary functions in the later historical periods, such as for burials. Examples of secondary burials can also be found from the Early Iron Age (Szentes–Vekerzug, Hódmezővásárhely–Kishomok, Csárdaszállás–Hanzély-tanya, Kétegyháza–kurgan 6). In each case, Scythian graves were found in the earlier mounds. This rite in the landscape may strengthen the sacred and cultural continuity between nomadic people of different ages and origins.

In the administrative territory of Gyula, the "Mersz" Public Benefit Foundation placed an information board next to 15 mounds. The goal was to allow visitors to visit each mound in a tour and learn the most important information about them. This way, not only locals but also tourists can learn about the town's past and the traditions associated with the mounds. The mounds in the project area contain a valuable record of cultural and environmental conditions that occurred at the time of their construction; therefore, their conservation is highly recommended.

We are grateful to the NKFIH FK 146506 grant and the Körös-Maros National Park Directorate for their support.

The Töviskes-halom mound near Gyula, with an information board in 2025 (Ádám Bede)

EDIT BELASICS

Celts in the Castle Garden

Saint Andrew Castle
belasicsedit@emberioldal.hu

Keywords: castles, Celtic traditions, craftsmanship, creative camp, community programs

Archaeological research conducted in the surroundings of the Saint Andrew Castle (Szent András Kastély) in Bölcske (W Hungary) has opened new perspectives for understanding and reinterpreting the Celtic heritage of the Danube region in a contemporary cultural context. During the castle's renovation, excavations carried out by the Wosinszky Mór Museum of Szekszárd uncovered the remains of three Celtic dwellings, as well as La Tène–period pottery fragments and jewellery remnants. These finds hold not only scientific value but have also served as inspiration for the development of new community and tourism programs.

Our creative workshop program – developed in professional collaboration with master potter Valéria Szalma – is based on the dialogue between craftsmanship and archaeology. The recreation of authentic Celtic ceramics represents not only a tangible reconstruction but also an experiential form of knowledge transmission.

The Saint George's Day creative craft camps and the Litha celebration, held at the summer solstice in the castle park, transform archaeological heritage into a shared experience for both the local community and visitors. The Celtic traditions evoked through fire rituals, music, and dance strengthen the sense of timelessness and continuity while embodying a sustainable form of cultural tourism. The example of Bölcske thus stands as a model of successful social engagement in archaeology, craftsmanship, and creative collaboration – where the heritage of the past becomes a living, communal experience in the present.

Excavation of Celtic houses (Wosinszky Mór Museum)

Saint Andrew Castle, Bölcske (Edit Belasics)

KATALIN GYENESEI[1,2] – KRISZTIÁN KISS[2,3] –
TAMÁS SZENICZEY[2] – FERENC UJVÁRI[4] –
KRISZTINA PESTI[4] – TAMÁS HAJDU[2]

Anthropological Analysis of the Late Iron Age Burials from Győr–Kálvária Merged Site

[1] Hungarian National Museum, National Institute of Archaeology
[2] Department of Biological Anthropology, Eötvös Loránd University
[3] Institute of Practical Methodology and Diagnostics, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Miskolc
[4] Rómer Flóris Museum of Art and History
gyenesei.katalin.eva@hnm.hu

Keywords: Transdanubia, Iron Age, Celts, human remains, biological anthropology, paleopathology

The area surrounding Kálvária Mound, situated in the western part of the city of Győr, has long been recognized as an archaeological site. The graves unearthed at Győr–Kálvária between 2017 and 2019 represented well the Celtic burial customs of the Late Iron Age. The cemetery can be dated to the 4th century BC through the latter half of the 3rd century BC.

The 22 graves, most of which had been robbed, contained 20 skeletal burials and two cremations. A biological anthropological examination was conducted to investigate the demographic profile, physical characteristics, aspects of the living conditions and health status of the associated Late Iron Age population.

The demographic patterns revealed were consistent with Iron Age series, including a low proportion of infants and a relatively higher ratio of females. It is important to note, however, that the cemetery was only partially excavated, and some graves may have been destroyed in the 19th and 20th centuries. The crania suitable for measurement displayed similar craniometric features to those of the Transdanubian Celtic groups. The majority of the alterations observed, including both degenerative and inflammatory changes of the spine and joints as well as dental diseases, were characteristic of prehistoric populations. Nonetheless, evidences of comparatively rare diseases such as hyperostosis frontalis interna (HFI) and possible early manifestation of diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH) were also identified. In addition, injuries attributed to both accidental trauma and interpersonal violence were recorded.

Traumatic lesion on the frontal bone of the individual buried in Grave S-32 (possible trepanation) (Tamás Hajdu)

BÁLINT HAVASI[1] – ZSUZSANNA FARKAS[2] – ISTVÁN EKE[1]

Living Forest, Hidden Past – Barrows and Heritage Protection through a Digital Lens

[1] Directorate of Zalaegerszeg Museums – Göcseji Museum
balint.havasi@zmmi.hu
[2] Zala County Government Office

Keywords: Zalaszántó, barrow, Early Iron Age, DGPS, GIS, LiDAR, heritage protection, forestry

The research history of the Zalaszántó barrow cemetery spans more than one and a half centuries, from 19th-century descriptions to the application of modern digital geoinformatics methods. The barrows at the site are dated to the Early Iron Age (Hallstatt culture, Ha C–D) and form one of the largest contiguous barrow cemeteries in Transdanubia.

During DGPS measurements carried out in 2008, 301 field points were recorded, of which 288 were confirmed as burial mounds and 58 showed signs of disturbance. The mounds range between 3 and 45 metres in diameter and 0.5 and 10 metres in height, grouped into four well-defined clusters. Processing these data resulted in the creation of a digital cadastre of the Zalaszántó barrow field, which remains the basis of ongoing research.

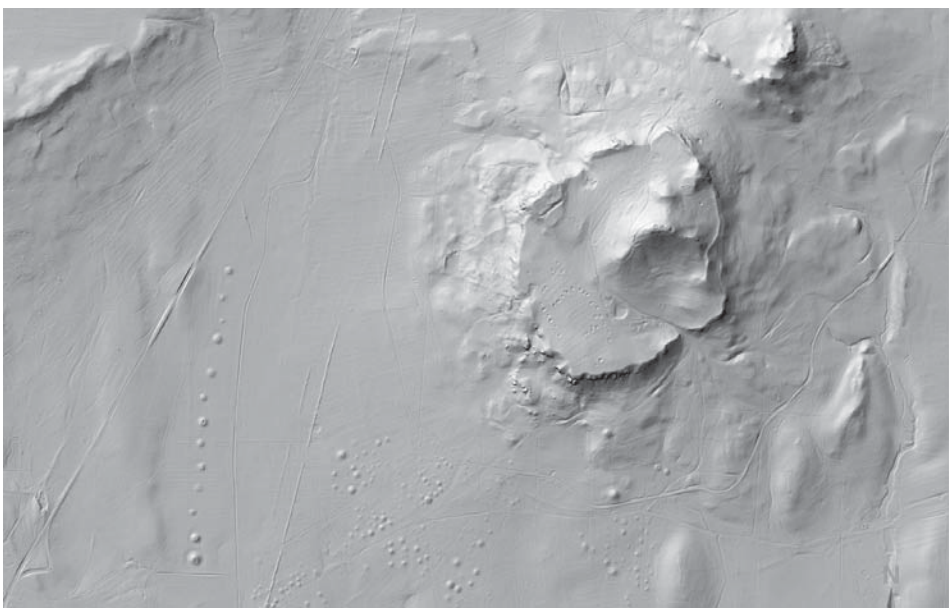
In the latest research phase, the national LiDAR database – used in cooperation with Envirosense Hungary Ltd. – enabled the identification of a previously unknown group of barrows connected to the earlier surveyed cemetery area. This discovery has given new momentum to the investigations, and the field verification and documentation of the newly identified mounds are currently underway.

Beyond its scientific significance, the digital and on-site identification of the barrows also provides a foundation for cultural heritage management and protection. Following the documentation of the site's extent and the condition of its features, the comprehensive survey aims to supply the information necessary for organising in situ preservation to landowners, nature conservation managers, land users, and forestry professionals.

Through joint dialogue, land-use practices based on sustainable management principles – such as meadow, pasture, or low-impact forestry – can be promoted, ensuring the protection of both heritage and nature. This process also includes strengthening cooperation between heritage and forestry authorities, increasing

the participation of heritage professionals in forest management planning, and filling the concept of "heritage forest," defined in Hungarian forestry law, with practical content.

Barrows in the Vár-rét area of Zalaszántó
(Photo Archive of the Balatoni Museum, Keszthely)



LiDAR survey of the barrows (Envirosense Hungary Ltd.)

RÉKA IZMINDI

The Green Pearls of the Amber Road

Hungarian Garden Heritage Foundation
reka.izmindi@magyarkertorokseg.hu

Keywords: cultural heritage, castles, historical gardens, landscape usage, interlinks

This poster presentation investigates the relationship between Iron Age trade routes and historical heritage gardens, especially at places in the vicinity of the Amber Road. It shows how the choice of locations along the Amber Road influenced landscape use, how it affected the development and evolution of a region, and how it impacted the forming communities, settlements, people and ethnic groups in these areas, and ultimately how it influenced horticulture and the way the environment and the gardens were used.

I present some of the gardens that still exist today near the most important settlements of the Irone Age Amber Road, such as Soporon, Győr, and along the Rába River. These are living imprints of Hungarian horticulture and attract large-scale attraction among both domestic and foreign garden heritage enthusiasts. Our country's most important garden heritage sites, the

Esterházy Castle with a baroque garden in Fertőd, the Széchenyi Castle and its park in Nagycenk, and Pannonhalma, southeast of Győr, with the Benedictine Abbey built on a hilltop, are key locations. East of the Rába Valley, in the town of Pápa – amazing as well in its own might – we find another magnificent Esterházy Castle that has been preserved for the present generation, also in close proximity to the ancient Amber Roud.

The research relies on garden archaeology data, the analysis of maps, drawings, visual representations and historical sources, highlighting the role of trade routes in shaping landscape use and cultural heritage, with an emphasis on the touristically relevant role of historical gardens today. The aim of the poster is to show the significant impact of the ancient trade routes, including the Amber Road, and to promote a better understanding of the Iron Age heritage and landscape architecture.

Baroque garden – Esterházy Palace, Fertőd
(Hungarian Garden Heritage Foundation)

DOROTTYA KÉKEGYI – SÁNDOR KOVÁCS

Iron Age on the Plate

Dorka Fűszerháza / Dorka's House of Spices
dorkafuszerhaza@gmail.com

Keywords: history of gastronomy, experience-based heritization, knowledge transfer, herbs and spices

Dorka's House of Spices (Dorka Fűszerháza) introduces itself as the creator of the Iron Age Danube Route spice and tea blend product line. In our poster, we summarise the goals formulated before the product was created, the origin of the data taken into account during preparation, our hypothesis, the unavoidable subjectivity, and finally, the results we have achieved so far.

We produce spice and tea blends from raw materials and ingredients produced in an ecological farm, and which are either proven by archaeological finds or gastronomic historical sources. The aim of the mixtures based on gastronomic historical foundations is to provide tangible, experience-based knowledge transfer. During product development, we also take into account the trends in the use of spices today. Market feedback and successful workshops support the fact that we have managed to produce a product line that can be enjoyed by people today.

Iron Age Danube Route spice and tea blend product line (Sándor Kovács)

Iron age spice blends (Sándor Kovács)

NIKOLETTA LUKÁCS – MÓNIKA PANYIK-GÖRFÖL

Reconstruction of a Late Iron Age Female Burial

Hungarian National Museum, National Institute of Archaeology
lukacs.nikoletta@hnm.hu
gorfol.monika@mnm.hu

Keywords: Late Iron Age, Transdanubia, funerary archaeology, burial customs, reconstruction

In 2022, archaeologists from the Hungarian National Museum uncovered a small yet remarkable Late Iron Age cemetery on the outskirts of Székesfehérvár. Before this excavation, no Late Iron Age burial sites had been documented in the area, where only settlement evidence was previously known. The investigation revealed several intact graves – two enclosed by circular ditches and three additional burials – most of which contained well-preserved grave goods. Among these, burial no. 27, identified as a female cremation grave, proved particularly significant. The assemblage comprised three iron and two bronze fibulae deposited on the cremated remains, accompanied by intact ceramic vessels.

Our poster presents the preliminary results of the analysis of the female burial, focusing primarily on the reconstruction of burial customs rather than on a detailed typological or chronological assessment of the finds. Nevertheless, regional parallels and the broader cultural context of the grave and its assemblage are also briefly discussed. The spatial arrangement of the ashes, the placement of the fibulae, and the associated grave goods provide valuable insights into Late Iron Age funerary customs in Transdanubia. Reconstruction drawings are employed to visualize the burial context and to illustrate interpretative hypotheses regarding ritual practices and material culture.

Reconstruction of Late Iron Age burial no. 27 at Székesfehérvár (Zoltán Tóth)

ATTILA MRENKA

Late Bronze Age Gold Hoard from Sopron-Burgstall. The Fábián-Gyekiczky Hoard

Sopron Museum
mrenka.attila@sopronimuzeum.hu

Keywords: Sopron-Burgstall, Late Bronze Age, hoard, gold and bronze

The Sopron Museum in cooperation with the Archaeological Department of the University of Pécs and the local forestry holding, has carried out excavations with metal detecting surveys on the famous Early Iron Age site of Sopron – Burgstall.

In early 2023, a gold find of outstanding quality came to light during the metal detecting survey of Sopron-Burgstall. The find consists of hundreds of small bronze rings and dozens of tiny bronze buttons that accompany three large, domed golden discs, two gold wires and a necklace made of bone beads. Based upon the domed discs, the hoard dates to the latest phase of the Late Bronze Age, the Ha B3 period. Scientific investigations were conducted to identify the patterns and the tool that had made them. In the following year, a small-scale excavation took place, revealing that the hoard had been hidden in a circular ditch encircling the peak of the site. Using the hoard as a starting point, we present the circumstances of discovery, briefly introduce the finds themselves and provide a glimpse into the upland settlement pattern of the Late Bronze Age in the region.

The finds show great similarities to the ones that came to light at Velem – Szentvid and have around 20 analogies from all over Central Europe. The uniqueness of the Burgstall find is that it came from an undisturbed context, was excavated by professionals and forms a complex entity with the accompanying finds (the more than 300 bronze rings and more than 40 small buttons). The excavation carried out in 2023 yielded a small charcoal sample from the same layer that contained the domed discs. With the help of this piece, it was possible to establish an exact date: the AMS C14 calibrated date ranges between 905–805 BC.

One of the decorated gold discs during the excavation (Attila Mrenka)

The Fábián-Gyekiczky hoard (Sopron Museum)

RÓBERT ORBÁN

Via Sancti Martini – Saint Martin European Cultural Route
The Legacy of Saint Martin is a Common European Heritage

Via Sancti Martini
viasancti@gmail.com

Keywords: Saint Martin Cultural Route, European cultural heritage, pilgrimage routes, cross-border cooperation, charity

The Saint Martin European Cultural Route is an integral part of the European coordinating organization for the Saint Martin's European Federation of Cultural Centres. In 2025 the Federation consists of the following participating countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Romania.

Our Main Goals

- Building and developing the St. Martin's Cultural and Pilgrimage Route, including the supplementary and connecting routes.
- Promoting the veneration of Saint Martin and researching the values, traditions, and customs associated with him.
- Promoting charity and mercy following Martin's example.
- Seeking formal recognition of Martin's legacy as part of the European intellectual heritage.

Hungarian Roots

The Hungarian organization in charge of maintaining Saint Martin's Route is based in Szombathely, the former town of Savaria. Martin was born in this town around 316 / 336, Martin was born in this city, and according to local legend, his birthplace stood on the site of today's Saint Martin Church. The place was also visited in 791 by Charlemagne, the Frankish ruler, who came to pay tribute to the patron of his empire.

The Saint Martin walking routes, which are also pilgrimage routes, start from here and lead all the way to Tours in France, the city where Martin served as bishop.

www.viasanctimartini.hu | www.viasanctimartini.org

The Saint Martin of Tour Route (Via Sancti Martini)

MÁTÉ PIROS-POZDORA – ANNAMÁRIA PRISKIN

Above the Fire, Beneath the Earth. Archaeological Gastronomy Festival as Heritage Mediation in Nyíregyháza

Hungarian National Museum, National Institute of Archaeology
piros.p.mate@mnm.hu
priskin.annamaria@hnm.hu

Keywords: archaeological heritage mediation, European Iron Age, archaeo-gastronomy, food reconstructions

The poster presents the concept and outcomes of *Above the Fire, Beneath the Earth* (*Tűz fölött, föld alatt*), an archaeological gastronomy festival organized in Nyíregyháza, Hungary, as a collaboration between the Hungarian National Museum Public Collection Centre – National Institute of Archaeology and the Sóstó Open Air Museum. The event aimed to make archaeological heritage more accessible and engaging for the public by combining the results of experimental archaeology with immersive cultural experiences. The festival was held for the first time, with the intention of establishing a long-term tradition.

Over the course of the festival, ten reconstructed dishes from different archaeological periods – spanning from the Neolithic to the High Middle Age – were prepared on-site using historically authentic techniques and ingredients. The dishes were accompanied by thematic lectures, traditional artisan demonstrations, and historical re-enactments that brought ancient living to life for visitors.

Particular emphasis was placed on two dishes connected to the Iron Age. One of these was *Ritschert*, a barley-and-legume-based stew reconstructed from finds from the Hallstatt salt mines in Austria. The cooking of this meal was paired with a lecture introducing the Hallstatt site and its significance in European Iron Age research. The other was a *Viking stew from Lejre, Denmark*, inspired by experimental archaeology projects at this well-known Scandinavian Iron Age site.

The key innovation of the programme was that visitors were not only able to observe the cooking process, but also to taste the reconstructed archaeological dishes themselves. By merging sensory experience, storytelling, and tangible heritage, the festival successfully fostered public engagement with archaeological heritage and offered an innovative model for heritage-based tourism programming, which will be continued in the coming years.

The place of the Roman food tasting (Anarcsi-porta)
(Edvárd Janka, Hungarian National Museum)

TŰZ FÖLÖTT
FÖLD ALATT
RÉGÉSZETI GASZTRONÓMIAI FESZTIVÁL

The project's logo

KÁROLY TANKÓ

Recent Research of a Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age Fortified Settlement and Celtic Oppidum at the Eastern Edge of the Alps

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE); HUN-REN–ELTE Research Group for Interdisciplinary Archaeology
tanko.karoly@btk.elte.hu

Keywords: Velem–Szent Vid, LBA, EIA, Celtic oppidum, metalworking, metal detecting archaeological survey

Velem–Szent Vid, located on one of the easternmost peaks of the Alps at the western edge of the Carpathian Basin, is among Hungary's most significant prehistoric and Celtic archaeological sites. Known since the 19th century, the site became famous for its rich metal finds of bronze, silver, and gold, which initiated systematic excavations between the late 1800s and the 20th century. Despite its prominence, earlier campaigns remained only partly published, while treasure hunting – now aided by metal detectors – has continued to endanger the archaeological record.

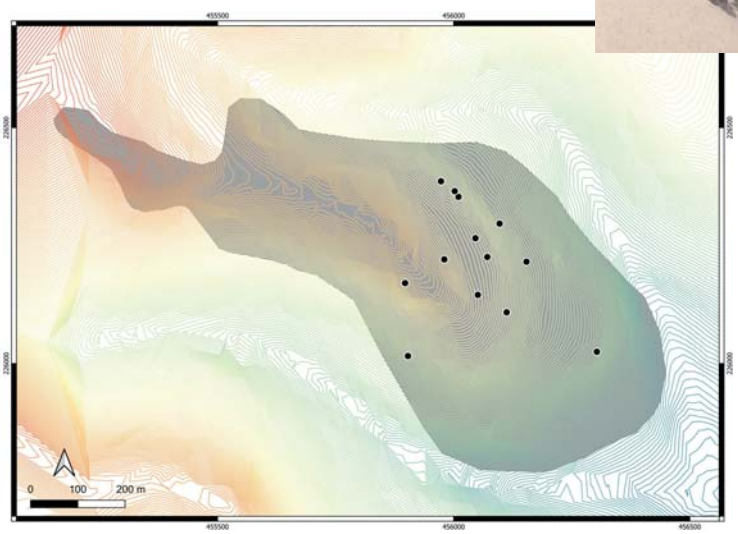
Recent investigations, restarted by Eötvös Loránd University in 2017, aim to systematically recover and document metal artefacts from all occupation periods to preserve as much archaeological data as possible. The results confirm long-term habitation from the Late Bronze Age through the Late La Tène and Roman periods. The Early Iron Age phase (6th–5th centuries BC) is of special significance: Velem–Szent Vid functioned as both a fortified settlement and a metalworking centre. Semi-finished artefacts and a stone mould for the "Velem-type fibula" suggest local production within a specialized workshop zone.

Although the Early Iron Age occupation seems spatially limited, its cultural and economic role was pivotal, with extensive connections toward the Eastern Alps, the Northwestern Balkans, and the Carpathian Basin. Continued interdisciplinary fieldwork and detector-based surveys provide new insights into the technological, social, and regional dynamics of this Iron Age hub.

Aerial view of Velem – Szent Vid (Károly Tankó)

Velem-type fibula from the site (Károly Tankó)

Stone mould for the production of a Velem-type fibula (after K. Miske 1908)



Recently investigated area of the Velem–Szent Vid site, showing maximal Prehistoric extension (grey) and Early Iron Age fibula finds (black dots) (Károly Tankó)

MÁTÉ TÓTH–VÁSÁRHELYI[1] – ATTILA KREITER[2] –
KRISTÓF FEHÉR[2] – LÁSZLÓ ELŐD ARADI[2]

The Apulian Krater from Tomb No. 109 at Százhalombatta

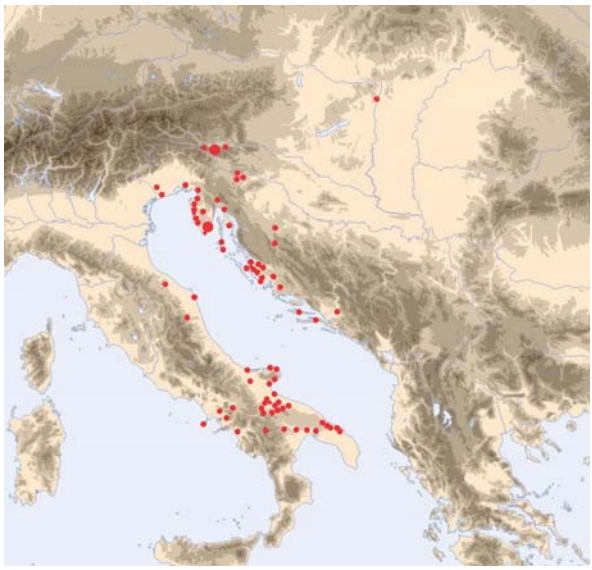
[1] Eötvös Loránd University, Institute of Archaeological Sciences
[2] Hungarian National Museum, National Institute of Archaeology,
Archaeometry Laboratory
lavorlabor@gmail.com

Keywords: Bustum grave, scale armour, South Daunian pottery, Etruscan tripod, Amber Road

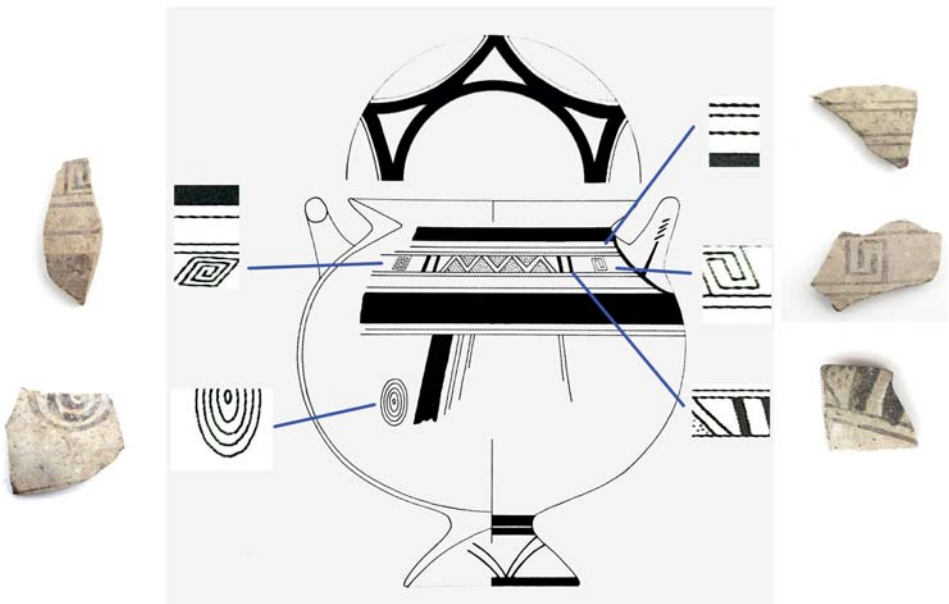
In the southern part of the early Iron Age necropolis at Százhalombatta (Hungary), eight burials excavated between 1979 and 1996 have provided remarkable insights, especially following the (re)processing of the finds. Among them, Tumulus No. 109 is particularly significant, identified as a rich funerary pyre where a middle-aged warrior and his female companion were likely cremated. Despite the disturbance of the burial mounds, notable artifacts, including a presumed shield harness and horse harness, align with regional patterns of warrior graves. The picture is further clarified by fragments associated with bimetallic Scythian scale armour.

One of the more enigmatic discoveries is a carved bone hand, which is closely linked to depictions of boxers holding dumbbells in situla art. This artifact highlights possible cultural exchanges that transcend local traditions. Based on the technology used to make it, the heavily burnt, hollow bronze fragment, which can be identified as a three-fingered claw, is of foreign origin in this area. During this period, we find very similar shapes on the legs of Etruscan tripods. These four-fingered griffins or lion claws were always tripods, thymitaterions, or candlesticks, and played a significant role in the liturgy of symposions. The pottery assemblage includes unique fragments, such as the matt-painted sherds of a South Daunian Subgeometric I (Ofanto I) spherical pedestalled crater, similar to examples from the Stična mound in Slovenia. These vessels are thought to originate from the Canosa-Toppicelli workshops in the Ofanto Valley, known for producing standardized goods for export. To confirm the provenance of the Százhalombatta crater, ongoing geochemical and thin-section petrographic analyses aim to trace the raw materials and better understand the site's connections to Mediterranean trade networks. In summary, the bustum grave No. 109 suggests a much stronger connection with the Mediterranean than previously thought. Slovenian territorial groups may have played a prominent role in this connection. The Scythian scale armour is a

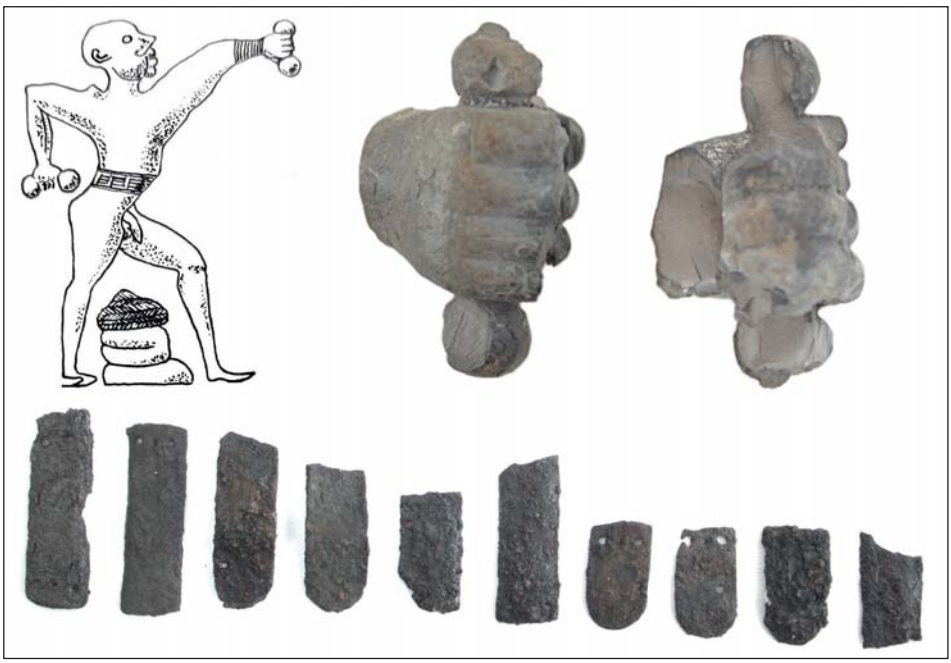
connecting element that leads from the Regöly and Jalžabet burials to the Amber Road, illustrating the direction of the steppe element's attempts to exert influence.



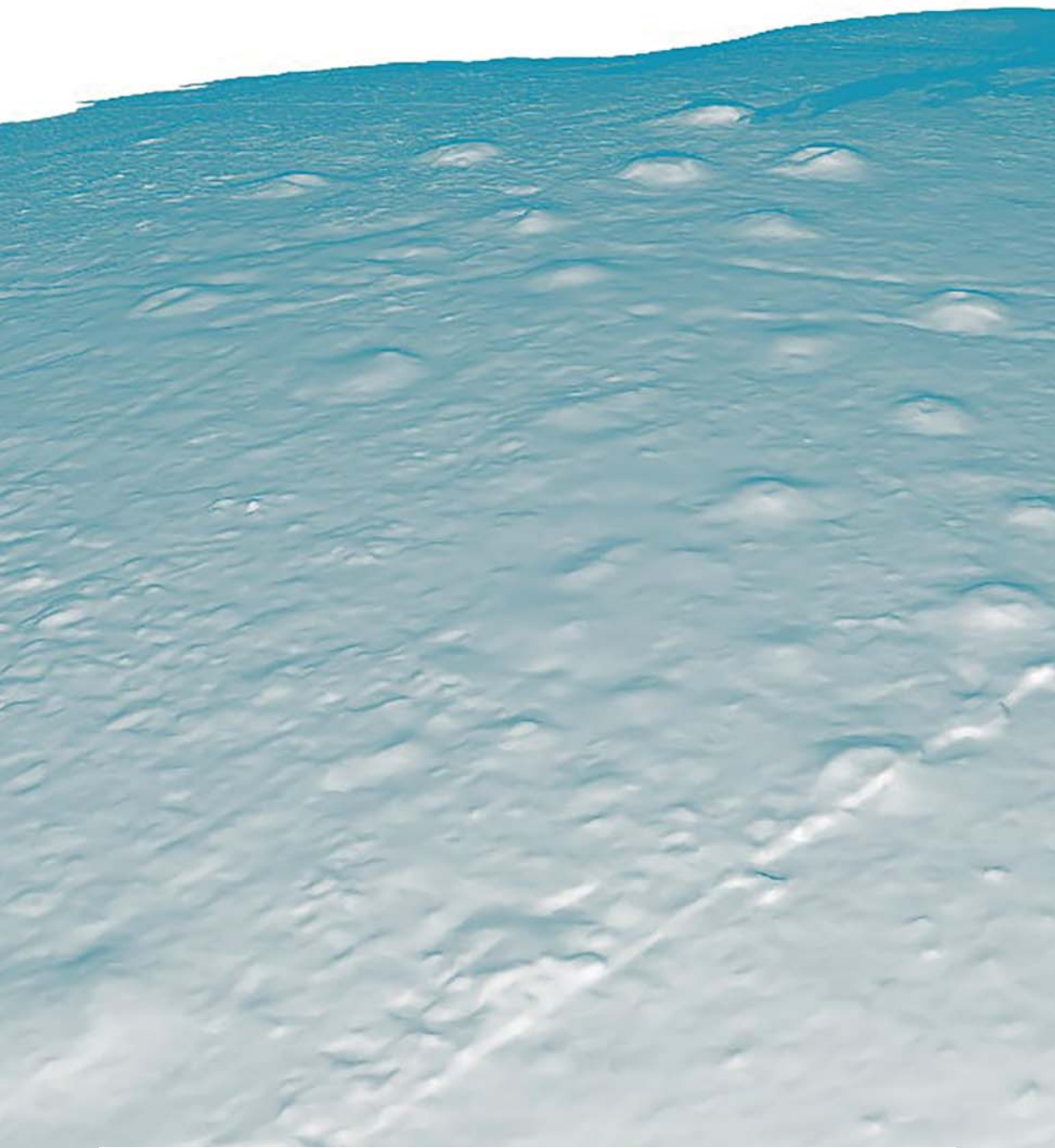
Distribution of the Apulian kraters (Máté Tóth-Vásárhelyi)



South-Daunian subgeometric I (Istria IIIb, 650-600 BC) (after Turk – Murgelj 2008)



Precious grave goods from tomb nr. 109, Százhalombatta (Máté Tóth-Vásárhelyi)



SAVARIA MÚZEUM

IRON AGE DANUBE route

Cultural route of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel du Conseil de l'Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ARCHAEOLINGUA

National Cultural Fund of Hungary

FF UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA Faculty of Arts

MATRES MATERIAL RESILIENCE

MNM HUNGARIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM