Routes4U

Feasibility Study
on an Iron Age cultural route
in the Danube Region

Routes4U Project

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ROUTES4U

FEASIBILITY STUDY ON AN IRON AGE CULTURAL ROUTE IN THE DANUBE REGION

August 2019

The present study has been developed in the framework of Routes4U, the Joint Programme between the Council of Europe and the European Commission (DG REGIO). Routes4U aims to foster regional development through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme in the four EU macro-regions: the Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine, Baltic Sea and Danube Regions. A special thank you goes to the author Martin Fera, and to the numerous partners and stakeholders who supported the study. The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Danube Region represents a melting pot for different cultures and influences in central Europe. We have hardly any written sources for the Iron Age – spanning the 1st millennium BC – so it is the archaeological material remains that show us how regional groups interacted and exchanged in a common cultural area. This heritage is to be placed at the centre of a proposed Cultural Route in order to improve its protection on an international level and to provide regions with an additional tourist offer.

This study should represent a first step towards an itinerary of suitable sites and destinations in all the countries of the Danube Region. Following an analysis of the "state of the art" of Iron Age heritage in the region and general remarks on its presentation and the state of associated research, a list of 67 entries (3 to 7 per country), with a basic characterisation for each country, has been compiled. The selection of sites has tried to keep to the goals of referring as much as possible to the whole Danube Region and reflecting its diversity as well as shared heritage. The sites and destinations are varied in nature and involve remote areas that are off the beaten track.

The amount of available information was also variable across sites. Still, a first attempt at a qualification of site assets was done, considering such factors as:

- visibility: this mostly applies to archaeological remains and how visible they are at the site;
- accessibility: this considers how accessible the site is for private persons and groups;
- infrastructure: how well developed is the area? Are there restaurants, tourist information points and good transport connections?

In Chapter 3, the entities and international networks managing these Iron Age heritage sites are analysed with a focus on the possibilities and obstacles in view of the co-operation among them at the transnational level, in the framework of a possible Cultural Route.

Chapter 4 provides clear recommendations for further steps and on the assistance that is needed for the creation of a network for an Iron Age Cultural Route. The recommendations should help to support three basic components in the development of a Cultural Route:

- collaboration among actors;
- accessibility of information and facilities at the destinations;
- monitoring and evaluation.

Three appendixes provide an inventory of sites and destinations with managing authorities (Appendix 1), references and data sources for research (Appendix 2), and an abstract of the initially proposed and executed methodological design of the study (Appendix 3).

II. ANALYSIS OF THE "STATE OF THE ART" OF IRON AGE HERITAGE IN THE DANUBE REGION

1. CULTURAL-HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sometimes developments in the history of humankind need a certain amount of time to be successful. This was also the case with iron, the material that gave its name to the last period of central European prehistory: the Iron Age. The technology of iron processing was introduced from the Middle East via the Balkans from the beginning of the first millennium BC. The metallurgical know-how of bronze production and processing had previously led to the formation of supra-regional networks, which increasingly lost their economic basis with the spread of iron. Iron technology is technically complex, but it has one big advantage: the raw material is much more widespread. Thus, from the 9th century BC, Late Bronze Age cultural groups in the Danube area seized on the "democratisation" of this important raw material, with its new possibilities for the production of tools, weapons and clothing elements. Regional groups emerged that adopted new influences in burial rites from the East, increasingly interring their dead in the landscapes around their hilltop settlements under widely visible burial mounds. Soon, supra-regional elites formed that, in the course of the Iron Age, networked to form a cultural complex spanning large parts of central Europe: the Hallstatt World, with a core region divided into a western and eastern cultural complex (Fig. 1).

Figure 1: The Iron Age archaeological cultural groups in the Danube and cultures in the neighbouring regions, 9th to 5th century BC.

This elite upper class sought close exchanges with neighbouring cultures, e.g. Etruscan in the southwest, Greek in the southeast and Scythian in the northeast (Fig. 1). In the 9th and 8th centuries BC, the northern Black Sea region was a main focal point for transcontinental contacts and with the Danube as the connecting line, ideas from nomadic steppe cultures spread across the

Carpathian Basin to the Alps. The most noticeable of these is the custom of burying prominent personalities under monumental burial mounds with horse bridles, protective weapons of bronze such as body armour and helmets, and rich drinking and eating utensils. The settlements were mostly built on heights, often with terraces on the slopes and sometimes with fortification systems. Here, uniformity is evident throughout the Danube Region, with increased steppe nomadic Scythian influences in Ukraine, Moldova and Romania, elements of the Thracians in Bulgaria, and contacts with the Illyrians in Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as relations with the Greeks via their colonies, established along the Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts in the 8th to 4th centuries BC. It has also been proven that the German, Austrian and Slovenian regions had connections with the Venetic and Etruscan cultures.

We don't have the names of most of the peoples considered as the bearers of the Hallstatt culture, but on figurally decorated bronze vessels, so-called situlas, we see scenic representations from the Iron Age. Their content shows connections to Homeric narratives, and thus we get an insight into the imaginary world of that time. Especially in the course of the 7th to 5th centuries BC, the Hallstatt culture of the older Iron Age was in close contact and constant exchange with the Italian, Greek and Illyrian regions. In the 6th century BC, economic and political changes in the Mediterranean region also had a significant impact on the western part of the Hallstatt culture. The influx of Mediterranean products increased and in so-called "princely tombs", the elite showcased its importance with magnificent imported pieces.

It was also in the upper Danube Basin that new developments occurred in the 5th century BC that were to influence large parts of Europe for the following five centuries. The contacts of the Hallstatt upper class with the Mediterranean region stimulated the development of their own ideas in the 5th century BC, which began to spread throughout Europe and manifested in their own style of art, as well as their economic and cultic activities and modes of warfare.

Figure 2: The Iron Age in the Danube and neighbouring regions, 5th to end of 1st century BC

The La Tène culture became predominant in central Europe during the later Iron Age (from the 5th to the end of the 1st century BC, with regional variations) and is seen in connection with Celtic cultural groups, whose designation as "Κελτοι" was handed down by Greek historians, or as "Celtae" or "Galii" by Roman historians. In the 4th century BC, a new social order can be determined with the disappearance of easily recognisable elite graves. Individual groups of farmsteads and small villages represented the main form of settlement. Systems of regional nobility and armed henchmen enabled

warlike migrations of Celtic groups. In cemeteries near the settlements, warriors were typically buried with an iron sword, spear and shield. In the 3rd century BC, ancient authors tell us about warlike Celtic groups that advanced to Greece. Delphi was plundered in 279/278 BC, and in the course of these migrations the La Tène culture spread to the Balkans, the south-eastern Alps and Transcarpathia. While they predominated in most countries of the Danube Region, independent but closely linked cultural groups existed, above all, in the south and east. Illyrian and Thracian areas remained in the areas of the Dinaric Mountains and south of the Danube during the later Iron Age, and in Romania an independent Dacian cultural area developed at the Carpathian Arch.

New forms of settlement appeared in the 2nd century BC. Large settlements, so-called "oppida", were built along important routes. They functioned as regional centres and were mostly fortified or in a naturally protected location. As a focal point for trade and craft, they also had administrative responsibilities and often had their own coinage. Frequently, there are also iron processing sites in their vicinity. Iron ore was mined, smelted and sometimes even traded into the Roman Empire as export goods, the so-called "ferrum Noricum".

Contacts with their rapidly expanding southern neighbours were still loose at the time. Found goods at some sites show, already in the 1st century BC, growing exchange with the Roman Empire. But with the occupation of large parts of the area south of the Danube at the end of the 1st century BC, the Roman Empire brought its own infrastructure and administration to these now Roman provinces. In some regions, existing Iron Age centres were abandoned and new urban settlements were established away from them, often forming the base of today's cities. While Roman social structures became dominant in the settlements and in the domain of crafts or the military, the Roman Empire also had an integrative character and in some regions existing religious sanctuaries could be interpreted in a Roman style and survive. On Roman tombstones, local names show that Celtic people had become citizens of Rome, and in some names of places, mountains and water bodies, Celtic heritage has been preserved as an intangible cultural asset to this day.

2. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Much of our knowledge about the central European Iron Age as the last prehistoric epoch in human history – before written records became regular – is based on the material legacy of the cultures of that time. Numerous monuments of the European Iron Age have been preserved from the almost thousand years of its existence. The best known and most present in the public awareness are artefacts from archaeological excavations, which are accessible to the interested public in state and private museums and collections covering a period of research spanning 200 years now. Numerous components of traditional dress, drinking and eating utensils, and magnificent weaponry have been recovered during excavations of burial mounds. Numerous graves have also been found that contained ornately decorated bronze and iron jewellery, glass and amber necklaces, and ceramic vessels. Excavations in settlements have uncovered everyday objects and objects of artistic craftsmanship, such as looms for textile production, pottery and forged goods. Organic materials are less frequently preserved, but at individual sites, such as in salt mines, textile and leather remains have been discovered and displayed in museums. At sacrificial sites and sanctuaries, particularly impressive collections of objects have been recovered including, in the Late Iron Age, weapons, very often made unusable by burning and bending in rites.

In addition to this heritage, there are also numerous monuments, some of which have been preserved in relief in the meadows, pastures and woods of today's landscapes. In many regions these consist of Iron Age burial mounds, which are accessible as individual monuments or in groups in rural areas, appearing as prehistoric remains to the untrained eye. It is much more difficult to recognise settlements and fortifications. Massive earthen ramparts, often with stone-faced walls underneath, represent a common form of fortification in Iron Age settlements that can still be seen today on some hills. However, individual residential buildings and houses, which were mainly constructed in wood, are usually no longer visible above ground.

In the past few decades, archaeologists have developed numerous methods to obtain information on these invisible monuments. For a long time, excavations were considered the only way to investigate underground archaeological structures. Modern technologies enable scientists today to proceed non-destructively. Using various methods of archaeological prospection, sites can be discovered and three-dimensional images made for analysis and presentation. By using remote sensing methods, terrain models produced by airborne laser scanners, aerial photographs and satellite imagery, entire countries can be systematically surveyed for archaeological material heritage. Through the use of geophysical methods, recognised monuments can be examined and their structure visualised in three dimensions. The increased systematic use of these methods in some countries has revealed numerous new monuments, which have considerably broadened our picture of the Iron Age. Numerous previously unknown settlements, but also remains of grave monuments obliterated by thousands of years of agriculture, have been discovered in this way. Computer-generated images enable amateurs and the interested public to observe these formerly invisible monuments.

However, due to different historical developments across physio-geographically varied regions (Fig. 2), as well as variations in conservation conditions (Fig. 4) and the state of research, a more in-depth comparison of the entire Danube Region remains difficult at the present time.

Figure 3: Biogeographical zones of the Danube Region

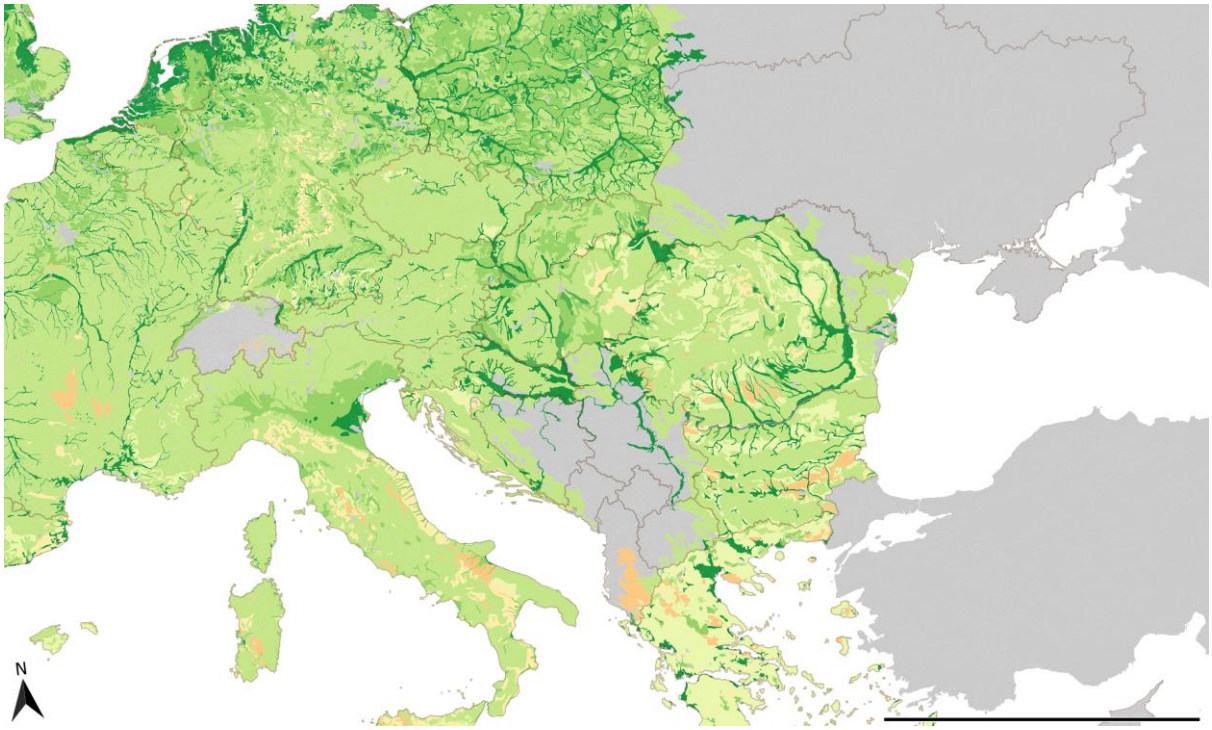


Figure 4: Preservation capacity of cultural artefacts and buried materials in soils across the EU (Dark green/Green/Light Green/Orange=Very good/good/fair/poor) (Kibblewhite, Tóth and Hermann 2016)

Subsample Iron Age Danube

As part of the Interreg Iron-Age-Danube project (IAD: https://iron-age-danube.eu), a comprehensive inventory of Iron Age monuments has been generated for four partner countries. All known sites (1 046 in total) in Austria, Slovenia, Hungary (Transdanubia) and Croatia (Continental Croatia) have been recorded in a database (Fig. 5) and their status evaluated with regard to research, protection status and tourist presentation. For the other countries of the Danube Region, there is unfortunately still no comparable collection of data that could enable us to evaluate the spatial extent of Iron Age sites and their other attributes.

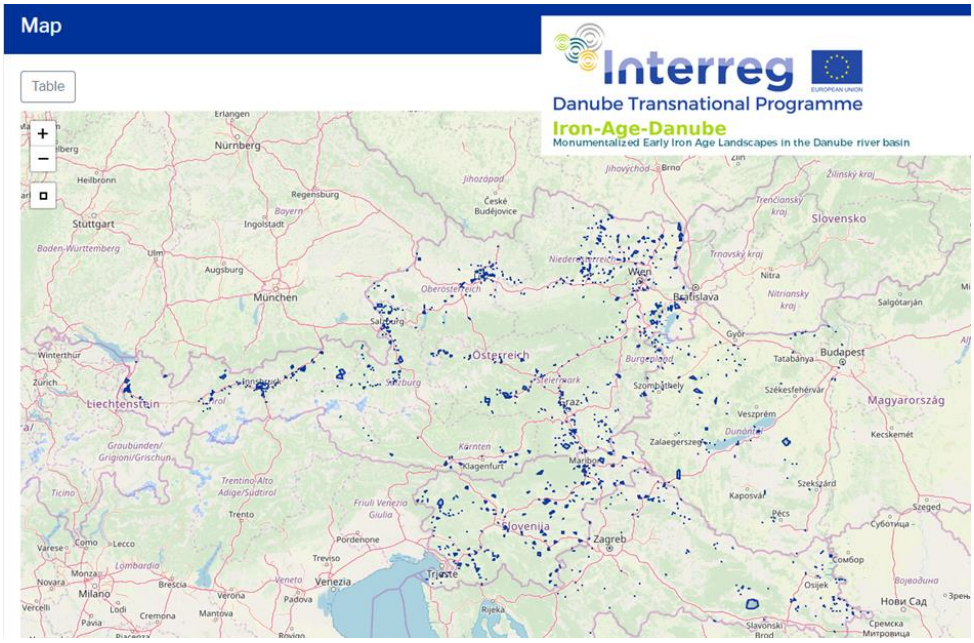


Figure 5: Interreg Iron-Age-Danube site collection. Screenshot from https://iron-age-danube.eu/browsing/sites/

In total, more than 1 000 Iron Age sites were mapped within the framework of the project in the four countries (Fig. 6), which can be used as the basis for a statistical analysis of Iron Age heritage in this sample.

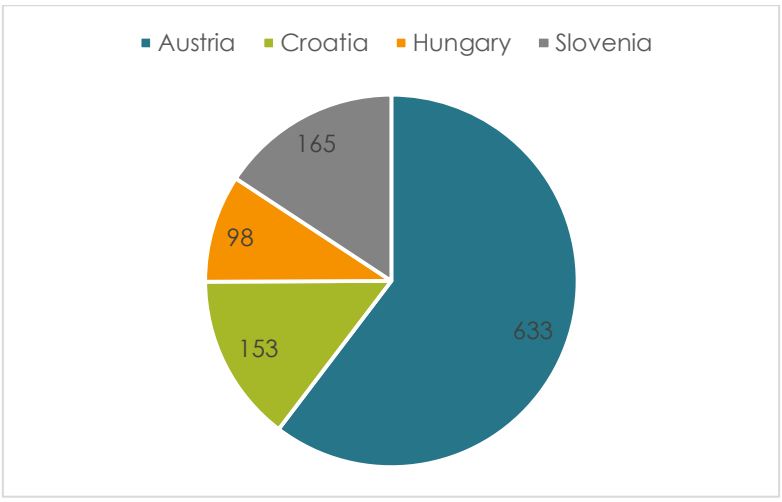


Figure 6: Number of collected sites per country. Data basis https://iron-age-danube.eu/browsing/sites/

The ownership of the plots of land containing archaeological sites plays an important role in the possibilities for research, protection and tourist use. Of the recorded sites, the ownership of more than half could not be determined. For 236 sites, private-public ownership was determined, for 172 sites dedicated private ownership was recorded, and only a small number – 37 sites – are in public hands (Fig. 7). This has an effect on site management as negotiations have to be conducted with a large number of private landowners, and private rights of use have to be weighed up against protective measures, research projects and tourism use on a case-by-case basis.

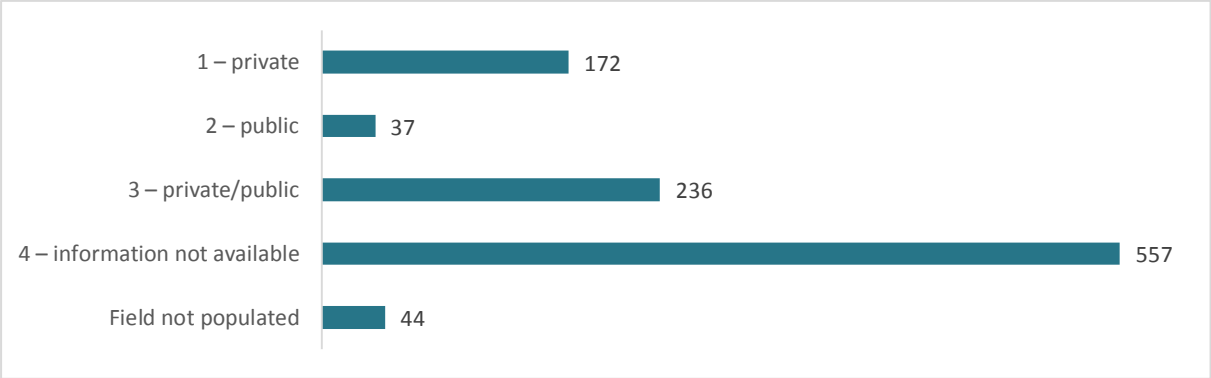


Figure 7: Ownership of land where sites are located. Data basis https://iron-age-danube.eu/browsing/sites/

Archaeological heritage is fragile and exposed to hazards in many areas. Modern construction activity and infrastructure projects, agricultural activity and land consolidation, as well as the extraction of mineral resources or erosion, all endanger invisible archaeological heritage. However, increasing tourist use can also worsen the state of conservation of archaeological sites. The collection of data by the IAD project enables the comparison of small regions within the Danube Basin.

Due to the ownership situation, it does not come as a surprise that only 461 units are at least partially protected and only about 240 units are under total protection within the possibilities afforded by national legal frameworks for monument protection (Fig. 8). Furthermore, differences in national laws are responsible for varying levels of protection across countries. A strategy paper, as an output of the project, should ensure standardisation in the future. This should also be the objective for the other countries of the Danube Region.

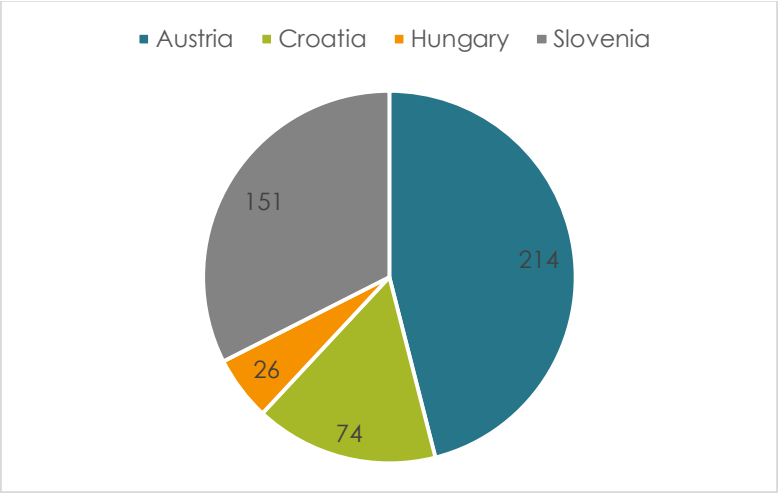


Figure 8: Number of at least partially protected sites per country. Data basis https://iron-age-danube.eu/browsing/sites/

3. DISSEMINATION AND PRESENTATION BACKGROUND

In addition to the discovery and investigation of the material legacy of Iron Age cultures, their scientifically presentation plays an important role. Since the middle of the 19th century, supra-regional and regional museums have been responsible for the exhibition of finds in various countries of the Danube Basin. At the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire research activities initiated from Vienna (and Budapest) took place in large parts of the Danube Region in all crown lands, and targeted research trips to individual regions were carried out. Found material was often brought to Vienna, where it is now kept in the Natural History Museum. With the foundation of state museums and local archaeological custodians at the end of the 19th century, research was regionalised and the finds remained in individual countries. After the Second World War, the state museums continued to receive support and regional museums with archaeological departments were established in numerous socialist countries, often presenting finds from nearby archaeological sites.

In addition to the presentation of artifacts and found objects a tradition of visualising archaeological heritage in the landscape developed throughout the 20th century. While Roman or medieval monuments are often easily identifiable as ruins or existing buildings, prehistoric monuments often require explanatory design at the archaeological sites.

Through archaeological research, methods have been established for decades in which life-size architectural models are constructed in controlled experiments with accurate copies of artefacts in order to gain knowledge about the technology, procedures, material requirements and energy consumption required. At some Iron Age sites, scientific reconstructions of prehistoric buildings based on excavation findings have been erected as part of experimental archaeology projects. Integrated into open-air museums, they represent the ideal case of the presentation of an archaeological site. An alternative are open-air museums that are not built at the sites themselves, but whose models are based on scientific findings from the Iron Age, and which are dedicated to conveying prehistoric ways of life and technologies. In both museums, the staging of thematic events with a participatory character are very well accepted and are viewed as proven forms of knowledge transfer in the form of "edutainment" targeting broad groups of the interested public.

A further type of presentation involves sites with preserved and interpreted excavation findings in situ, or information boards and descriptions of terrain features visible above ground, often as an archaeological path or within the framework of an archaeological park.

Here, too, there are great differences across the individual regions of the Danube Region. The tradition of archaeological parks and open-air museums comes largely from northern Europe, where the first (ethnological) open-air museums were established at the end of the 19th century. Another wave of construction began in the 1970s, when ethnological museums were built in former socialist countries, as well as reconstructed areas at archaeological sites. In German-speaking countries, in particular, there are numerous archaeological open-air museums around important Iron Age sites, which have been expanded in the last two to three decades.

Subsample Iron Age Danube

The database of the project also registered the visibility of archaeological structures on site, which has an impact on the attractiveness of a locality for tourist use. Of the 1 041 sites recorded, 647 (62%) are not visible to visitors, 248 (24%) are visible on site and 36 (3.5%) offer visitors reconstructed or interpreted elements of Iron Age structures (Fig. 9).

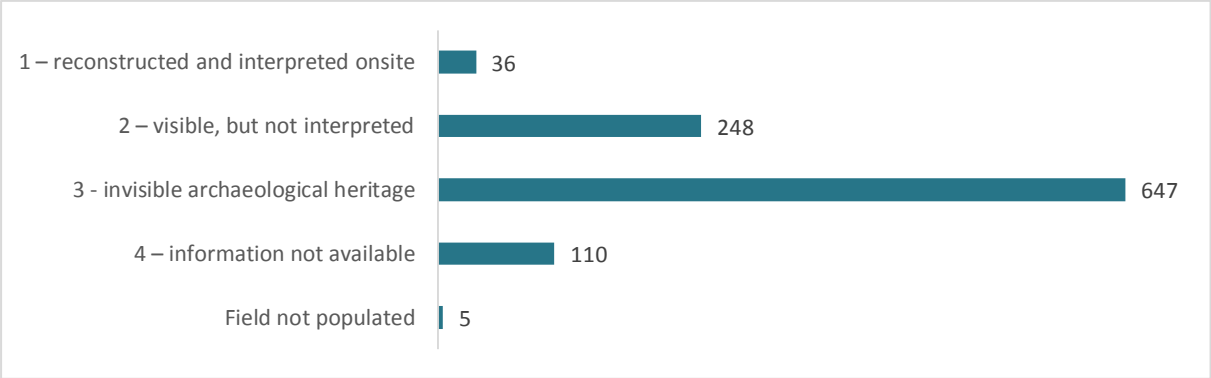


Figure 9: Visibility of sites. Data basis https://iron-age-danube.eu/browsing/sites/

As part of the project, tourism measures were developed in the partner countries at Iron Age sites in nine micro-regions (Großklein and Strettweg – Austria; Jalžabet and Kaptol – Croatia; Poštela and Dolenjske Toplice – Slovenia; Százhalombatta, Süttő and Sopron – Hungary). Some have already been implemented in the form of archaeological information paths, but in the future they will extend to visitor information centres at the sites.

4. IRON AGE SITES AND CHARACTERISTICS BY COUNTRY

One of the goals of a collection of potential destinations for a Cultural Route is to show diversity in the type of sites. To better characterise them the following chapter offers some basic data on countries and sites in the Danube Region. There is a clear gap in the availability of data between countries that were part of the IAD project or the Danube Region of Germany, where research and presentation of archaeological heritage has a long tradition, and regions of the lower Danube. The same applies to the Czech Republic and Slovakia, where well-developed Iron Age sites are present, especially monumental fortifications. Still, candidates have also been identified in more remote regions, where the development of more far-reaching tourist offers will still have to be advanced. Two of the identified sites are outside the actual Danube Basin, but were nevertheless left in the data collection, as they are important Iron Age sites and are in countries belonging to the Danube Region, although they may not be considered in further steps.

Figure 10: Map of identified destinations in the Danube Region

The following sections illustrate the characteristics of Iron Age heritage for each country and provide additional information onsite considered for the itinerary described in Appendix 1.

Accessibility:	**Visibility:**	**Infrastructure:**
1 - accessible by public transport 2 - accessible for individual tourist groups 3 – inaccessible 4 - information not available	1 - reconstructed and interpreted onsite 2 - visible, but not interpreted 3 - invisible archaeological heritage 4 - information not available	1 - complete infrastructure 2 - basic infrastructure 3 - no infrastructure 4 - information not available

Legend: ☑…Archaeological remains ☑…Museum ☑…Village/Town ☑…Association

Austria

The significance of Iron Age heritage for Austria can clearly be seen from the fact that the older European Iron Age is referred to as the Hallstatt Period after the discoveries in Hallstatt in the Austrian Alps. Therefore, the selection was extended to seven candidates reflecting different aspects of the Iron Age. It includes a mining/industrial area, cemeteries with large monuments, settlements with representative fortifications and cult sites with connections to the Venetians. Accessibility is very good throughout, and the presentation on site ranges from archaeological paths to reconstructions of parts of Iron Age settlements.

☑☑☑☑ **A1 Austria, Hallstatt** **WGS84 47.561953 / 13.648957**

Character: Cemetery; salt mine. **Accessibility: 1**, **Visibility: 1**, **Infrastructure: 1**

Tourism: Fully developed. Archaeological remains, salt mine, activities on the lake, mountaineering.

Eponymous find site of the older Iron Age with prehistoric cemetery and salt mining in the Upper Austrian Alps. The village is not only known for its salt, it is famous for its picturesque appearance, its location at Lake Hallstatt, the painted skulls in the medieval ***karner*** (ossuary) and, above all, because it bears the name that describes the Hallstatt culture; since 1997 Hallstatt has been a World Heritage Site. Of note are the environmental conditions in the salt mine, which meant that organic material such as textiles, leather and raw hides were preserved, offering rare insight into a material cultural group. Hallstatt is an important trade hub of the Iron Age and imported goods from the west and east demonstrate its position at the intersection of the eastern and western circles of the older Iron Age.

☑☑☐☑ **A2 Austria, Strettweg** WGS84 **47.176458** / **14.657991**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Hilltop settlement, surrounded by associated burial mound groups. Known for Strettweg cult wagon displayed in Universalmuseum Joanneum at Schloss Eggenberg in Graz. The Stadtmuseum Judenburg holds a replica.

☑☑☐☐ **A3 Austria, Großklein** WGS84 **46.740402** / **15.436766**

Character: Cemetery. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed.

On the Burgstallkogel (458 m) near Kleinklein an extensive Urnfield and Hallstatt-temporal hilltop settlement is documented. This was one of the most important political and economic centres of the Alpine Region in the older Hallstatt Period. Multiple groups of burials can be found in the surrounding area.

☑☑☐☐ **A4 Austria, Gurina** WGS84 **46.668972** / **13.085337**

Character: Settlement; cemetery; sanctuary. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

On the hill Gurina on the northern side of an alpine valley in Carinthia settlement structures, burial mounds and a sanctuary from the Early Iron Age, running into the Roman Period, have been excavated. It is most famous for Venetic inscriptions showing that this site was an important communication point between the Hallstatt culture and northern Italic cultural groups. It is also one of the first points that shows Roman contact with a late Celtic alpine territory.

☑☑☐☐ **A5 Austria, Schwarzenbach** WGS84 **47.638142** / **16.362059**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Fully developed. Marked trails (archaeological, bird observation path, etc.):

www.schwarzenbach.gv.at/Freizeit_Wirtschaft/Sehenswuerdigkeiten

Neolithic, Bronze Age and Late Iron Age hilltop settlement. Massive Late Iron Age fortification, thus considered a local oppidum. ***In situ*** reconstruction of parts of the excavated Late Iron Age

settlement through experimental archaeology.

☐☑☐☑ **A6 Austria, Mitterkirchen im Machland** WGS84 **48.195935** / **14.726781**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Reconstruction of a Hallstatt culture village, experimental archaeology.

☑☑☑☐ **A7 Austria, Dürrnberg** WGS84 **47.667558** / **13.089970**

Character: Cemetery; settlement; salt mine. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed.

Important site with several settlements, salt mining areas and funerary sites from the Hallstatt and La Tène Periods.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia, Glasinac sites represent the most important type of Iron Age site, the findings of which are mostly preserved in the Zemaljski muzej Bosne i Hercegovine. Large areas of Bosnia were part of the Glasinac culture group, associated with Illyrian tribes. Locations in the terrain are generally not well developed and there have been few efforts to visualise them on site so far.

☑☑☑☐ **BiH1 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Donja Dolina** WGS84 **45.146384 / 17.248870**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **3**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Trading centre.

☑☐☐☐ **BiH2 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Glasinac** WGS84 **44.293054** / **18.087499**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Caves, hiking, skiing, religious tourism: https://turizamrs.org/en/sokolac/

Area of several sites – settlement, tumuli in vicinity of Sokolac.

☑☐☐☐ **BiH3 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pod kod Bugojna** WGS84 **44.047728** / **17.446435**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism. Hunting.

Hillfort in Čipuljić (part of Bugojno).

Bulgaria

During the Iron Age, the area occupied by present-day Bulgaria was inhabited by Thracian cultural groups with close contact with the Greek area. Stone architecture and numerous monumental burial

mounds and dolmens ensure good visibility on site. Sveštari/Sboryanovo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, includes numerous monuments from the Iron Age. While there are good offers for tourists in an archaeological park, other sites could still be expanded.

☑☐☐☐ **BG1 Bulgaria, Ada Tepe** WGS84 **41.433335 / 25.650000**

Character: Gold mine. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

There are plans to create a modern open-air museum, dedicated to mining and metallurgy, near the Ada Tepe hill.

☑☐☐☐ **BG2 Bulgaria, Zlatosel** WGS84 **42.500000** / **25.000001**

Character: Dolmen. Accessibility: **3**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

Bulgaria's largest dolmen so far (discovered in 2015), named "stone egg", near Zlatosel. There is also a stela on site, and many Thracian dolmen are located nearby.

☑☑☐☐ **BG3 Bulgaria, Perperikon** WGS84 **41.642751** / **25.368720**

Character: Settlement; religious centre. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

The archaeological complex is situated in a rocky landscape and has been used as sanctuary since neolithic times; a large round altar was hawn out of the rock in Iron Age. In this time it was used by Thracians and considered as a sacred site, where enthronement ceremonies should have taken place. A rocky mountain top has been enclosed by a stone wall in the time between the 4th and 1st century BC.

☑☑☑☐ **BG4 Bulgaria, Sveštari/Sboryanovo** WGS84 **43.745238** / **26.766613**

Character: Cemetery. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Sboryanovo Historical Archaeological Reserve is a complex of 140 sites and includes a fortified Tracian city, a Thracian sanctuary and the Sveshtari Tomb, a necropolis and sanctuary of a Thracian king. Since 1985 it is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Croatia

During the Iron Age, Croatia was at the crossroads of several cultural influences. Necropolises in the north show elements from the steppe nomadic area, while Illyrian influences predominate in the south. In the coastal area Greek influences can be seen through numerous colonies up to the northern Adriatic Sea. The settlement area of the Histri is presumed to have been in the Istrian area. As part of the IAD project, an extended presentation was planned at two sites, from information paths to visitor centres on site, and in some cases has already been implemented.

☑☑☐☐ **CRO1 Croatia, Kaptol (Požega)** WGS84 **45.456207 / 17.729991**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Bike trails, hiking, wine region.

Important site with settlements from the Early Iron Age to Late Iron Age. Large tumuli groups with princely tombs.

☑☐☐☐ **CRO2 Croatia, Jalžabet** WGS84 **46.260836** / **16.489250**

Character: Cemetery. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

Large monumental tumuli with opulent burials from the Early Iron Age. Besides the known and visible tumuli other mounds have been detected by archaeological prospection. Some settlement finds and assumed settlement areas that need further clarification. Visitor centre planned in the near future.

☑☑☑☐ **CRO3 Croatia, the island of Vis (Issa)** WGS84 **43.064753** / **16.185305**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed. Summer and nautical tourism, historical tourism (e.g. fortresses, churches, submarine shelter).

Most important Greek colony in Croatia. Mostly destroyed, but lately new excavation and protection is being carried out. Also Roman remains.

☑☑☑☐ **CRO4 Croatia, Sisak** WGS84 **45.484186** / **16.372137**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed. Historic city.

In the Iron Age, Segestika was the oldest proto-urban entity in continental Croatia. Mostly visible Roman remains (archaeological park Siscia ***in situ***). Archaeological park Sv. Kvirin to be opened.

☑☐☐☐ **CRO5 Croatia, Vizače (Nesactium)** WGS84 **44.916843** / **13.969180**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

A prominent centre for the Illyrian Histrians in the first millennium **BC**. They continued to live there right up to late classical times, that is the early Christian era. In Nesactium, bronze pails decorated with figures, fragments of jewellery, weapons and ceramics have been found, along with examples of monumental stonework, representing the greatest achievements of prehistoric artistic creativity on Croatian soil.

Czech Republic

The present-day Czech Republic lay at the heart of the Hallstatt culture of the older Iron Age and the La Tène culture of the later Iron Age. Numerous fortified hilltop settlements, some of which have been well researched, can be found in this area. Some have been made accessible to the public with

information paths and offer modern lookout towers and partial reconstructions of archaeological remains.

☑☐☐☐ **CZ1 Czech Republic, Boudy** WGS84 **49.459311 / 14.029325**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

One of the best documented and well-preserved Hallstatt period hilltop settlements, known as "Hrad", at Čimelice. The site consists of two dry-stone walls and an inner wall, all of which surround the top of the dominant hill, 574 m above sea level near the Lomnice and Skalice rivers.

☑☐☐☐ **CZ2 Czech Republic, Býčí skála** WGS84 **49.307436** / **16.694831**

Character: Cave. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Natural park, speleology.

Traces of settlements in the cave Býčí skála in the Moravian Karst range from the Palaeolithic to the early Iron Age and were discovered in the middle of the 19th century. The most famous Iron Age find is the bronze statuette of a bull. Ceramic and bronze vessels, iron weapons, decorative gold and bronze objects, glass and amber beads and the remains of three or four carriages were found at two large burial sites with the remains of 40 people. The interpretation of the site remains unclear; a ritual or sacrificial function is most likely. The cave is 7 km long and archaeological material has been found at the entrance. During the Second World War, the cave was irreparably damaged when a concrete floor was laid in the entrance hall. The Býčí skála cave is currently not open to the public. Guided tours take place three times a year.

☑☐☐☐ **CZ3 Czech Republic, Stradonice u Pátku** WGS84 **50.372903** / **13.970250**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

As a rare example this hilltop settlement is not covered by forest today and therefore offers a panoramic view of the Central Bohemian highlands.

The construction of the Hallstatt fortification on the site "Na šancích" consists of several sections built with different techniques. A monumental wooden and earth rampart on the northeast side originally had a frontal stone wall, a palisade and an outer ditch. Today, the watchtower "Stradonka" stands on the rampart, which was erected in an supposed Iron Age construction.

☑☐☐☐ **CZ4 Czech Republic, Šťáhlavy (Hájek)** WGS84 **49.666514** / **13.546958**

Character: Cemetery. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Historical landmarks, Kozel forest.

The "František Xaver Franc Archaeological Nature Trail" is named after a local amateur archaeologist of the 19th century. The trail leads through the "Kozel" forest, where a remarkable number of prehistoric and medieval relics have been preserved, since the area has been covered by a forest for a long time. In addition to an eneolithic hilltop settlement, there is a Bronze and Iron Age burial cemetery.

☑☐☐☐ **CZ5 Czech Republic, Věnec** WGS84 **49.098825** / **13.870708**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

This monumental "Věnec" ("Wreath" in Czech) Hallstatt Period hillfort is situated at the edge of the inhabited foothills of the Šumava Mountains. Its massive fortification consists of an "acropolis" and an extensive annexe. The whole enclosed fortified area covers nearly 8 ha. The ramparts are made of stone walls attached to natural rock at a number of places. Due to the limited excavations and a small number of finds, we can only speculate about the function of the site. It most probably served as an occasional refuge or gathering point of local people rather than a permanent residence.

☐☑☐☐ **CZ6 Czech Republic, Všestary** WGS84 **50.2591639** / **15.761833**

Character: Museum. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Open-air prehistory museum with experimental archaeology.

☑☐☐☐ **CZ7 Czech Republic, Závist** WGS84 **49.378337** / **16.572344**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

There is easy access to the oppidum of Závist. Today, it is covered by woodland, but parts of the fortification are still visible, with several gates and an "acropolis" at the summit. Between 1963 and 1989, the site was regularly excavated by the Archaeological Institute of Prague. It is listed as a historic monument. A footpath with several information boards leads to the acropolis at the top of the oppidum. Here, the visitor will find several information boards, and colour-marked signs that indicate the main archaeological remains.

Germany (Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria)

Germany's Iron Age heritage is characterised by numerous monumental burial grounds associated with an elite upper class. These so-called princely graves date from the older Iron Age. The Upper Danube Region belongs to the core of the Hallstatt and La Tène culture. Fortified Hallstatt settlements designated as princely residences *(Fürstensitze)* and well-researched Celtic oppida are also well developed for tourism.

☑☑☐☐ **DE1 Germany, Heuneburg** WGS84 **48.095528 / 9.411346**

Character: Settlement; cemetery. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Reconstructed Celtic settlement and archaeological trail to the tumuli in the vicinity.

☑☑☐☐ **DE2 Germany, Glauberg** WGS84 **50.306345** / **9.006770**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Archaeological park (not in the Danube Region).

☑☑☐☐ **DE3 Germany, Hochdorf** WGS84 **48.88916** / **9.002911**

Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**,

Character: Settlement; cemetery. Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Archaeological park at a famous Early Iron Age site consisting of a princely tomb in a tumulus.

☐☑☐☐ **DE4 Germany, Manching** WGS84 **48.712852** / **11.493132**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed: www.manching.de/freizeit-kultur-und-tourismus

Famous archaeological site consisting of a large enclosed Late Iron Age settlement, partly excavated with a visitor centre.

☑☑☑☐ **DE5 Germany, Altmühltal** WGS84 **48.923082** / **11.850944**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed.

The Archaeological park includes many Iron Age sites in the surroundings of the large Late Iron Age Oppidum Kelheim. There are 18 stations along a 39 km route and more than 50 events are organised during the year. Some of the stations offer in situ reconstructions of Iron Age monuments.

Hungary

In the older Iron Age, the Carpathian Basin was part of the Hallstatt culture, to which numerous settlements and burial mounds bear witness. In the younger Iron Age, Celtic tribes settled in the central region and Thracian influences can be found in the east. Individual sites are well developed for tourism and the open-air museum in Százhalombatta offers visitors opportunities for interactive activities.

☑☐☐☐ **HU1 Hungary, Velem-Szentvid** WGS84 **47.351750 / 16.477183**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Fortified hilltop settlement surrounded by tumuli and a flat cemetery.

☑☑☐☐ **HU2 Hungary, Százhalombatta** WGS84 **47.336242** / **18.938710**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Open-air museum. A large tumulus field with more than a hundred visible burial mounds, and a hilltop fortified settlement on a loess plateau next to the Danube.

☑☑☑☐ **HU3 Hungary, Sopron** WGS84 **47.664360** / **16.559621**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Fully developed. Sopron as historical town.

Fortified hilltop settlement with a tumulus cemetery. An Interreg archaeological trail leads past

some visible remains and reconstructions.

☐☑☐☐ **HU4 Hungary, Hungarian National Museum** WGS84 **47.491058** / **19.061830**

Character: Museum. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed. Capital and historic city.

Old museum with large collection of Iron Age finds from all over Hungary, collected from the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Moldova

In the area of present-day Moldova, burial rites of the Hallstatt culture can be traced that were adopted in the Iron Age. The production and trade of iron played an important role in the society of that time. This epoch also forms the foundation stone for the Geto-Dacian culture, which existed from the 6th century BC to the 1st century AD. Fortified settlements such as Saharna Mare played an important role. Coins and amphorae are also evidence of trade relations with Greece. In Saharna Mare there is a good tourist offer, and other places could be further developed.

☑☐☐☐ **MO1 Moldova, Saharna Mare** WGS84 **47.694327 / 28.962390**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Saharna monastery.

Hilltop settlement.

☑☐☑☐ **MO2 Moldova, Old Orhei (region)** WGS84 **47.305512** / **28.974968**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Culture, nature.

The Orheiul Vechi Archaeological Landscape is in the central-eastern part of Moldova along the gorge of the lower course of the Răut River, 14 km upstream from its confluence with the Dniester River. There are Iron Age settlements on the "Peştera" and "Butuceni" promontories.

☐☑☐☐ **MO3 Moldova, National Museum of History of Moldova** WGS84 **47.022585** / **28.828131**

Character: Museum. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Capital city of Moldova.

The National Museum of Archaeology and History of Moldova is one of the most important museum institutions of the country and offers unique finds from the Iron Age. One of the highlights is the Olanesti treasure, consisting of six helmets and five greaves dated to the 5th century **BC.**

Montenegro

Illyrian tribes founded small empires in the area of present-day Montenegro such as Labeates and Ardiaei When the Romans were able to subdue the Illyrian tribes, they were partly romanised. Later Roman cities, such as Doclea, have a distinct Iron Age prehistory. As parts of nature parks, the tourist offers are good, but could benefit from further informational elements.

☑☑☐☐ **MONT1 Montenegro, Doclea** WGS84 **42.467328 / 19.266323**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Archaeological park and museum. Mostly Roman.

☑☐☐☐ **MONT2 Montenegro, Gotovuša** WGS84 **43.274536 / 19.446775**

Character: Cemetery. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Climbing, hiking.

In the area of Gotovuša and in the valley of the river Cehotina, many burial mounds from the Iron Age have been discovered, along with fortified settlements.

☑☐☐☐ **MONT3 Montenegro, Mijela** WGS84 **42.227595 / 19.103801**

Character: Settlement; Cemetery. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed. Lake tourism.

Tumuli in Humski zaliv (bay).

Romania

Local Iron Age culture in Romania was enriched by the expansion of the La Tène culture with a new component of material culture, which is reflected in fortified hilltop settlements such as Ciumești. Several fortifications were built in the core area of the Late Iron Age Dacian settlement area, as well as Sarmizegetusa Regia, which is considered the core of a political unit of that time. The archaeological park is well developed and is part of the infrastructure under UNESCO World Heritage status.

☑☑☐☐ **RO1 Romania, Sarmizegetusa Regia** WGS84 **45.622718 / 23.310437**

Character: Museum; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

This fortress was built in the 1st century **BC** and under Dacian rule. It shows an unusual fusion of military and religious architecture from the classical world and the Late European Iron Age. It was considered the core of the Dacian kingdom, and was conquered by the Romans at the beginning of the 2nd century **AD**. It is an archaeologcial park with UNESCO World Heritage status.

☑☐☐☐ **RO2 Romania, Șimleu Depression** WGS84 **47.214455** / **22.534318**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

There are three hillforts: a Middle Bronze Age Hillfort on Pleșa hill; an Early Iron Age fortified settlement on the hill of Iertașul Petacilor; and a fortified settlement from the end of the Early Iron Age on Paliș hill. All are in the direct vicinity of Marca village.

☑☐☐☐ **RO3 Romania, Ciumești** WGS84 **47.663434** / **22.336897**

Character: Settlement; cemetery. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

The Iron Age settlement Ciumești consisted of a small rural community of which eight houses were excavated. These were spread over a large area, and the general pattern consisted of houses organized in groups of three or four, with each group also having a larger central structure with two rooms. Of particular interest is the common occurrence of local pottery and Celtic pottery from immigrant groups, indicating a common settlement in the later Iron Age.

☑☐☐☐ **RO4 Romania, Piatra Roşie** WGS84 **45.602105** / **23.147610**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

Important Dacian hillfort. Some excavated features are visible ***in situ***.

Serbia

During the Iron Age, Serbia was a settlement area for Illyrian and Thracian cultural groups and was the focus of Greek expansion. In the Late Iron Age, Celtic groups settled in the northern areas. One of the fortified settlements is in Židovar. Belgrade, too, is situated at a former Iron Age settlement (Singidunum). Local museums offer information for visitors, but additional offers would be desirable at further sites.

☑☐☐☐ **SRB1 Serbia, Židovar** WGS84 **44.950165 / 21.264591**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

In the 3rd century **BC** the Celts arrived in the Serbian Danube Basin, bringing with them the potter's wheel and a new type of fortified settlement. One such settlement was discovered in the vicinity of Vršac, in the locality of Židovar. Apart from the remains of architecture, a hoard of silver ornamentation and other objects made of silver have also been discovered in Židovar and can today be seen at the Museum in Vršac.

☑☑☑☐ **SRB2 Serbia, Novi Sad** WGS84 **45.256410** / **19.851727**

Character: Museum; settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. European Capital of Culture 2021. Wine region, horse region, culture.

Muzej Vojvodine and Petrovaradin Fortess (fortified since Early Bronze Age and Iron Age ramparts)

☑☑☑☐ **SRB3 Serbia, Belgrade** WGS84 **44.816627** / **20.459849**

Character: Museum; settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed. Capital city of Serbia.

There is a national museum in Belgrade and a Celtic settlement in the Taurunum area and Ritopek

(it is uncertain whether the latter is visible).

☑☐☐☐ **SRB4 Serbia, Lazareva (Zlotska) Pećina** WGS84 **44.029424** / **21.962358**

Character: Cave; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Natural tourism: several caves in the vicinity, a canyon, Lake Bor.

Metallurgical centre dating from the Copper Age to the Iron Age.

☑☑☐☐ **SRB5 Serbia, Čačak region** WGS84 **43.893366** / **20.349142**

Character: Museum; cemetery. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development: www.thecrazytourist.com/15-best-things-cacak-serbia/

The valley of Čačak has many tumuli, for example at Atenica and Mrčajevci.

☑☐☐☐ **SRB6 Serbia, Gomolava** WGS84 **44.888519** / **19.748172**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

Gomolova is situated near Hrtkovci, not far from Ruma and on the left shore of the Sava River. It was settled over six millennia and is one of the most famous prehistoric localities in Europe. Besides older periods – **the** Late Vinča Period, the Eneolithic Period, and the Early Bronze Age – there is a Late Iron Age settlement on top of Tell Gomolova. The first excavations took place in 1904, and there has been systematic research from 1953 onwards. The dominant horizons are from the Early Iron Age. The houses contain many ceramic stoves and pits show autochthonous material and Italic imports. In the foothills of Gomolova there is a big Roman necropolis. From the 12th to the 15th century there was a village necropolis and a church.

Slovak Republic

Slovakia was part of the Hallstatt culture during the Iron Age, but it was influenced by Thracian and Scythian neighbours from the south and east. In the La Tène Period, influential central settlements were built, and such an oppidum lies today in the city of Bratislava. Some of the sites are easily accessible, with information trails and local museums.

☑☑☐☐ **SK1 Slovak Repubic, Smolenice-Molpír** WGS84 **48.511704 / 17.425487**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development. Wine region.

Local museum , archaeological path with some reconstructions.

☑☑☐☐ **SK2 Slovak Repubic, Havránok – Liptovská Mara** WGS84 **49.104879** / **19.481893**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Open-air museum.

☑☑☐☐ **SK3 Slovak Repubic, Bratislava Hrad** WGS84 **48.142110** / **17.100234**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed. Capital and historic city.

Museum in Bratislava Castle, and an important late Iron Age oppidum.

☑☐☐☐ **SK4 Slovak Repubic, Jánovce** WGS84 **48.183934** / **17.527587**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **3**, Infrastructure: **3**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

An important centre of Púchov culture in the Spiš region, south of the village. It consists of a fortified settlement on Hradisko hill (683 m above sea level) and a residential area for crafstmen in the "Pod Hradiskom" corridor. The site has been known since the 19th century. A systematic excavation has not yet taken place.

☑☑☐☐ **SK5 Slovak Repubic, Devín** WGS84 **48.173913** / **16.978719**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed.

The site has been settled since the Neolithic Age and fortified since the Bronze and Iron Age and later by the Celts and Romans. Today castle ruins are visible – Devín castle is one of the oldest castles in Slovakia, and was likely first mentioned in written sources in **AD** 864.

Slovenia

In Slovenia, fortified hilltop settlements and burial mounds with graves, some of which are very richly endowed, are characteristic for the Iron Age. In the north-west, venetian influences are detectable. In Novo mesto there is evidence of glass industry. In the La Tène Period, numerous Celtic groups have been documented, of which numerous burial finds with weapons are known. In many places there are well-developed information boards and regional museums, as in Novo mesto. Further actions were developed within the IAD project.

☑☑☑☐ **SI1 Slovenia, Most na Soči** WGS84 46.153404 / 13.740853

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed, Historic town, water sports on the River Soča, hiking, winter tourism: www.soca-valley.com/en/

Settlement remains visible today are mostly Bronze Age (also Roman). The cemetery from the Iron Age is part of the cultural and historical trail of Most na Soči.

☑☑☑☐ **SI2 Slovenia, Novo mesto** WGS84 **45.811929** / **15.158515**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Novo mesto is an important Early Iron Age site situated on a double bend of the Krka River. Today, this is an urban area comprising modern Novo mesto. The Early Iron Age complex of Novo mesto consists of a hillfort at Marof with many cemeteries that were established on both sides of the Krka

River. North of the hillfort lies the notable Kapiteljska njiva, where archaeological excavations have been ongoing for 30 years. Excavations have revealed that this area was used as a burial site in the Late Bronze Age when cremation burials in urns prevailed. The remains of more than 60 tumuli from the Early Iron Age have been excavated. Inhumation was practised in Iron Age burials; cremation burial was again practised in the Late Iron Age when Kapiteljska njiva was used as a necropolis for the last time. Another large necropolis with flat cremation burials dated to the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron age is located north-east of Marof and is known as Mestne njive. A third, larger necropolis was positioned on the right bank of the Krka at Znančeve njive – also known as Kandija. Six tumuli with Early Iron Age inhumation burials and a Late Iron Age flat cremation necropolis that was situated north of the barrows were researched there before they were destroyed by the development of the city. Although most of the known data from Novo mesto has been gathered through excavations of burials, there are some less explicit indications that suggest other areas in Novo mesto were settled in the Early Iron Age. The lack of prehistoric settlement remains can be explained by intensive settlement activities in the Roman, medieval and modern eras.

☑☐☐☐ **SI3 Slovenia, Dolenjske Toplice** WGS84 **45.759131** / **15.052587**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed. Spa.

A well-researched Iron Age complex consisting of a fortified hilltop settlement with a monumental entrance, the remains of an iron smelting complex, three separate funerary sites and a smaller, presumably satellite, settlement. Part of the Cvinger archaeological trail.

☑☐☐☑ **SI4 Slovenia, Poštela and Hoče** WGS84 **46.513658** / **15.618394**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

The complex of Poštela is situated on the north-eastern fringes of the Pohorje hills. It consists of a fortified settlement located on the highest elevation. Under the hilltop settlement there is a flat cremation cemetery known as "Lepa ravna" and two separate groups of burial mounds. Individual barrows are also present on the slopes of Pohorje, south of the settlement. A monumental Kos barrow is located on the flatlands, and there is a large barrow group in Pivola. In the vicinity (Hoče), several burial mounds are located in the botanical garden of the University of Maribor and are a part of a future (September 2019) archaeological park. The botanical garden also showcases Iron Age plants:

http://botanicnivrt.um.si/pages/en/archaeological-park/opening-times-contact-location.php.

Tourists can enjoy Iron Age food in a nearby restaurant, Pri Baronu: www.pribaronu.si/.

☑☐☐☑ **SI5 Slovenia, Vače** WGS84 **46.121989** / **14.841173**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

The Early Iron Age complex of Vače lies above the village of Klenik in the western part of the hilly region of Posavsko hribovje. The features that belong to the complex are mainly located on the western edge of the ridge Zasavska Sveta gora – the highest peak is Ostri vrh (744 m). The Iron Age complex consists of a hilltop settlement, Zgornja krona, and nine different necropolises. Today, the area of Vače is remote, with subpar conditions for agriculture, in striking opposition to the abundance of Early Iron Age remains that have been discovered in the area. The hillfort at Zgornja krona is situated on the saddle between Slemšek (677 m) and Špičast hrib (695 m), with both elevations included in the remains of an enclosure. The funerary areas lie along the western,

southern and eastern slopes of the settlement. They consist of both flat and barrow graves that include inhumations and cremated graves, although flat cremated graves are probably most frequent. The Vače Iron Age complex became famous in the 1870s when some of the most prominent archaeologists of the Austro-Hungarian Empire visited the area or conducted their own excavations. The focus of the first excavations was directed to the funerary areas and into the acquiring of finds that were excavated by locals. Later excavations in the 1930s led by W. Schmid were conducted on the hillfort. Today we can follow the archaeological trail Vače, organised by the association GEOSS – Geometrično središče Slovenije: http://geoss.eu/turizem/izletniske-tocke/arheoloska-pot-vace/. The trail takes in the most visible archaeological remains, including an enlarged copy of the famous Situla (the original is displayed in the National Museum in Ljubljana).

☑☐☐☑ **SI6 Slovenia, Magdalenska gora** WGS84 **45.979475** / **14.635033**

Character: Cemetery; settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

A cultural trail leads past 10 archaeological landmarks around Šmarje-Sap, including the visible mound barrows on Magdalenska gora. The archaeological complex of Magdalenska gora consists of an enclosed hilltop settlement with three recognised funerary areas. The area was settled in the Late Bronze Age, but rose in prominence in the Early Iron Age, when it became one of the more important sites in the south-east Alpine region.

Ukraine (Odessa, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia)

In the Ukraine there were Thracian influences during the Iron Age and contacts with Greece on the Black Sea coast. In Zakarpattia, Dacian settlements are known that played an important role in iron processing. The museum in Odessa offers numerous finds from the Iron Age.

☑☐☐☑ **U1 Ukraine, Mukachevo** WGS84 **48.456917 / 22.701146**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

A Celtic oppidum and metal works centre that existed from the 3rd to 1st century **BC** have been found between the Halish and Lovachka mountains. A Thracian fort of the Iron Age (10th century **BC**) has been found on the mountain of Tupcha. Around the 1st century **BC** the area was occupied by the Carpi people, who displaced the local Celts. In Mukachevo, at the foot of the mountain Lovachka, stands a beautiful estate, a "Celtic yard".

☑☐☐☐ **U2 Ukraine, Malaja Kopaňa** WGS84 **48.169056** / **23.102979**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **4**, Visibility: **4**, Infrastructure: **4**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

Important fortification of the Late La Tène Period and Early Roman Period on the Chustsko-Rokov Mountains on the right bank of the River Tisa. The ramparts belong to the Dacian ramparts of the type "dava", dating from around the middle of the 1st century **BC**. It is associated with the advance of the Dacian tribes to the north after their consolidation and strengthening of power in Transylvania. In its heyday, it was an important centre of production and power for the Dacian settlement in Carpathian Ukraine. The ramparts were destroyed by a great fire and its settlement ended at the beginning of the 2nd century **AD**. The decline of its special position and that of the ramparts is due to the change in the political situation and order in the eastern part of the

Carpathian Basin, which was caused by the Dacian-Roman wars and the subsequent emergence of the province of Dacia.

☑☐☐☐ **U3 Ukraine, Užhorod** WGS84 **48.621622** / **22.306705**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **3**, Visibility: **3**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: No or little attempts for tourism.

This strategically located town on the River Uh, on the long-distance road that led through the river valley to the north into the Carpathians and to the south into eastern Slovakia, has had intensive settlement activities since prehistory. Hoards and individual finds of bronze pieces from the Late Bronze Age were concentrated in the city centre and the surrounding area. In the early Middle Ages Slavic villages developed on both banks of the River Uh. Monuments from the La Tène Period have been found in several areas. There was a settlement east of the brickworks on a sand dune above the swampy river bank. Pit houses with fireplaces and grey turned graphite clay ceramics have been investigated. On the right bank of the River Uh, on Zamkovaja Mountain, a settlement layer with La Tène ceramics was discovered during excavations in a Slavic settlement. Finally, east of the town of Radvanka, on the left bank of the River Uh, a La Tène settlement was uncovered during excavations of the Slavic settlement Remarkably, there are traces of metallurgical activity, such as clay thrown from the walls of the furnace and iron slag.

☑☐☐☐ **U4 Ukraine, Khotiv** WGS84 **50.333611** / **30.487778**

Character: Settlement. Accessibility: **2**, Visibility: **2**, Infrastructure: **2**

Tourism: Touristic offer in development.

Khotiv hillfort is from the Early Iron Age (Scythian times, 6th century **BC**) and is close to the village of Khotiv. A large part is demolished or privately owned (not in the Danube Region).

☐☑☐☐ **U5 Ukraine, Archaeological museum Odessa** WGS84 **46.485610** / **30.744051**

Character: Museum. Accessibility: **1**, Visibility: **1**, Infrastructure: **1**

Tourism: Fully developed.

Since 1997, the Odessa Archeological Museum has functioned not only as a museum but also as an institute for scientific research into the archaeology of prehistoric society in the northern Black Sea region and the archaeology of the Middle Ages.

3. ANALYSIS OF THE "STATE OF THE ART" OF THE ENTITIES/NETWORKS

Due to the extent of the geographical region, an itinerary of potential destinations for a route linked by the theme "Iron Age Danube" is naturally diverse. The selection presented here has tried to consider the suitability of the entities for such a Cultural Route through a qualitative evaluation of the visibility of attractions, their accessibility, the touristic potential of the surroundings, and existing efforts for their promotion by managerial entities. The data is based on online research and on information provided by some of the databases used for the research, but it cannot be considered exhaustive at this stage of data collection.

Visibility	Mostly applies to archaeological remains – how visible are they on site?
Accessibility	How accessible is the site for private persons and groups?
Infrastructure	How well developed is the area? Are there restaurants, tourist information points and good transport connections?

These factors were rated on a scale of 1-4:

Visibility
1 - reconstructed and interpreted on site
2 - visible, but not interpreted
3 - invisible archaeological heritage
4 - information not available

Accessibility
1 - accessible by public transport
2 - accessible for individual tourist groups
3 - inaccessible
4 - information not available

Infrastructure
1 - complete infrastructure
2 - basic infrastructure
3 - no infrastructure
4 - information not available

An analysis shows differences in these attributes for the selected destinations in different countries.

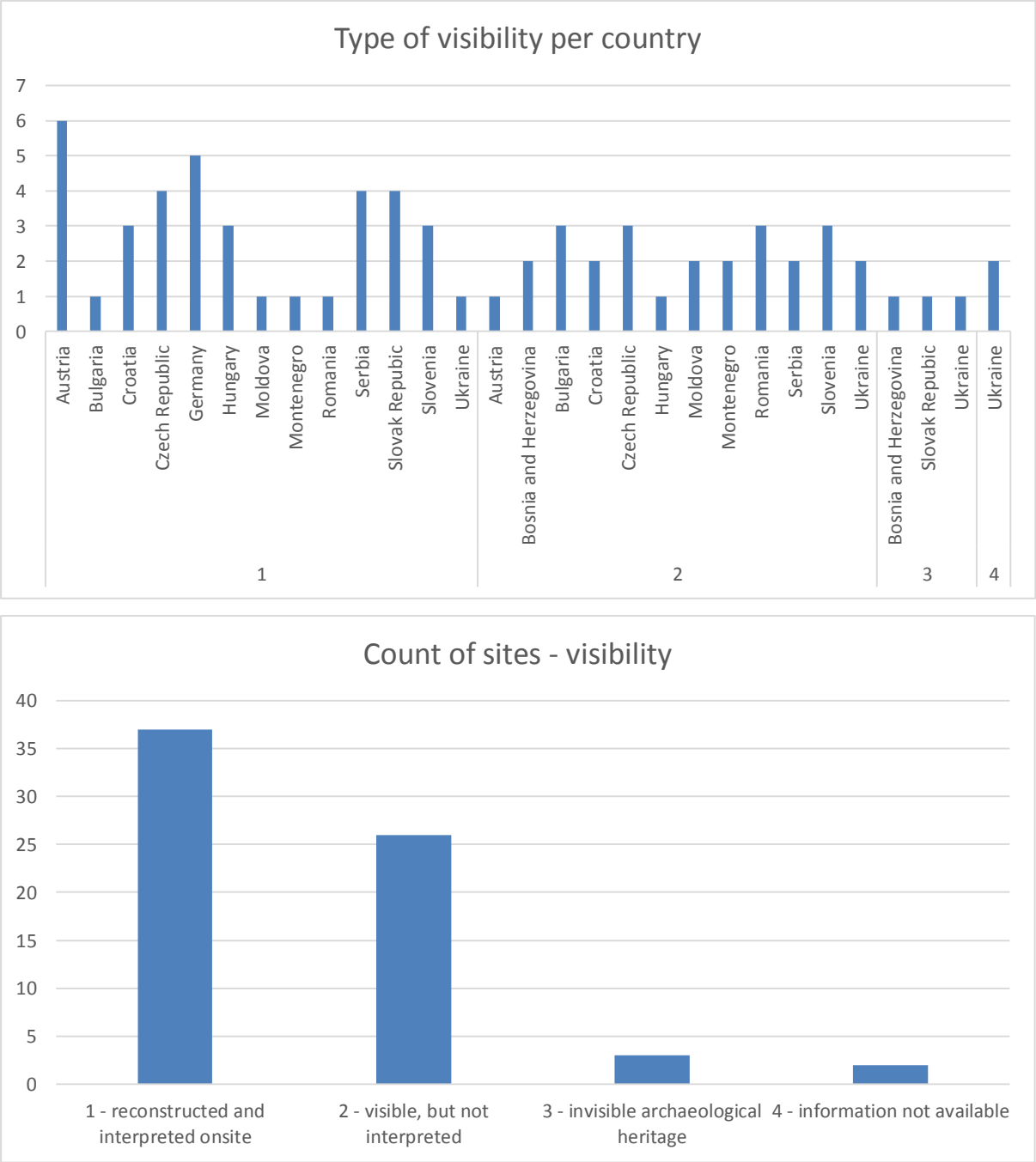


Figure 11: Visibility of archaeological remains

For most countries it was possible to select visible sites that can attract visitors or have the potential to be developed with touristic products.

Another factor for the suitability of a site within a Cultural Route is its accessibility. As Iron Age heritage destinations include a lot of landscape-related features their accessibility is a key factor for touristic development.

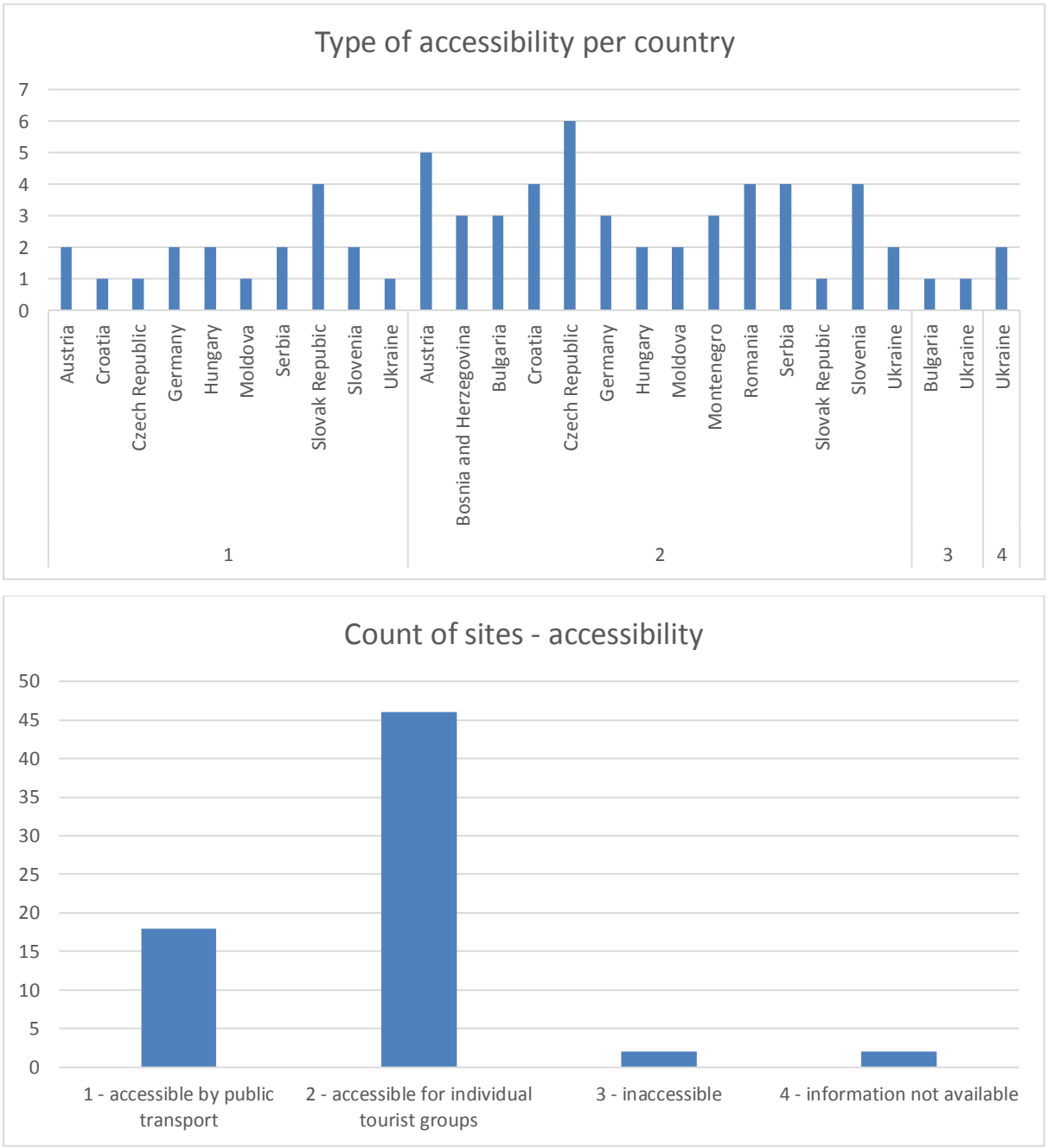


Figure 12: Accessibility of sites

The selection covers destinations that are mainly accessible for individual tourist groups, either by car, by bus transfer or via hiking trails from nearby towns or villages. This is a consequence of the location of archaeological sites in rural areas. Only a few sites are easily accessible by public transport, mainly museums and destinations in towns and cities. For three sites in Bulgaria and Ukraine further investigation will be necessary to get better information on accessibility; because of their thematic importance they were still included in this selection.

An evaluation of the existing touristic infrastructure shows the need for further development in this regard (Fig. 13).

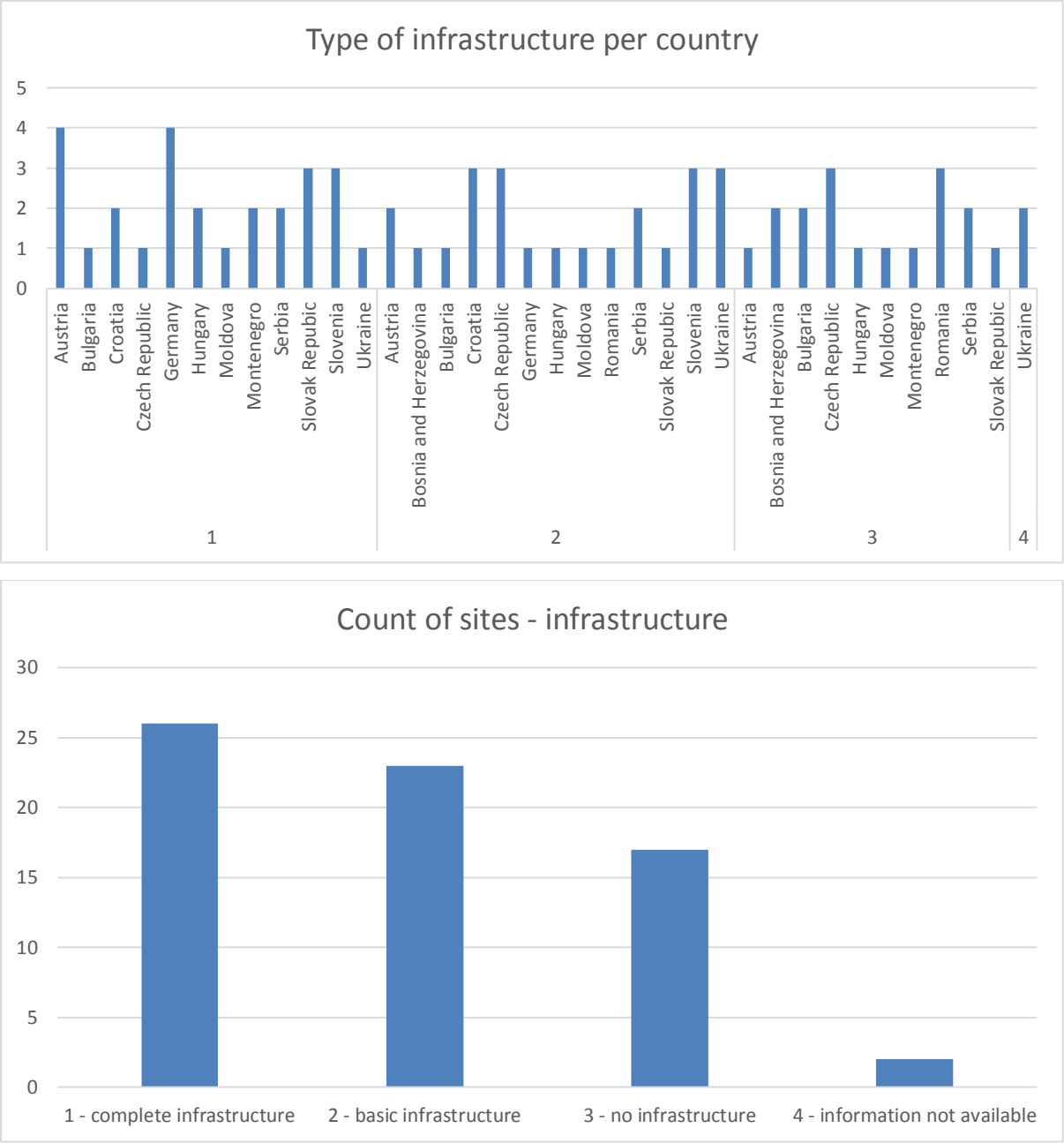
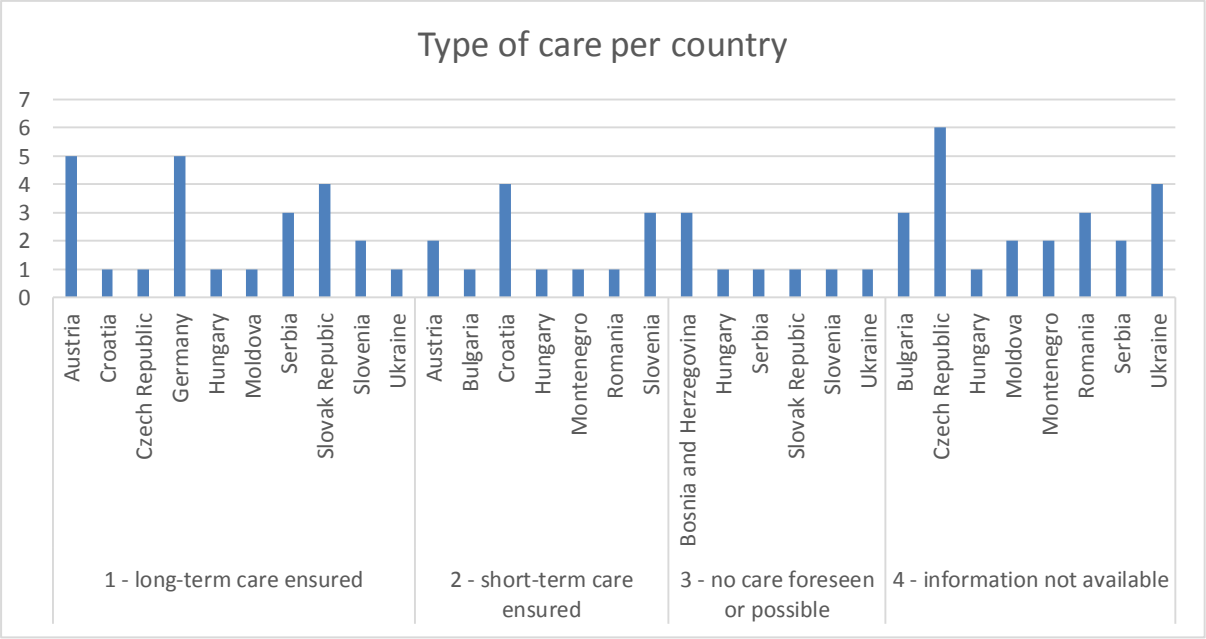


Figure 13: Touristic infrastructure of vicinity

Many sites are in touristically less developed regions. For Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia some initiatives have already begun in the framework of the IAD Danube project.

This is linked to the assessment of long-term care for these entities.



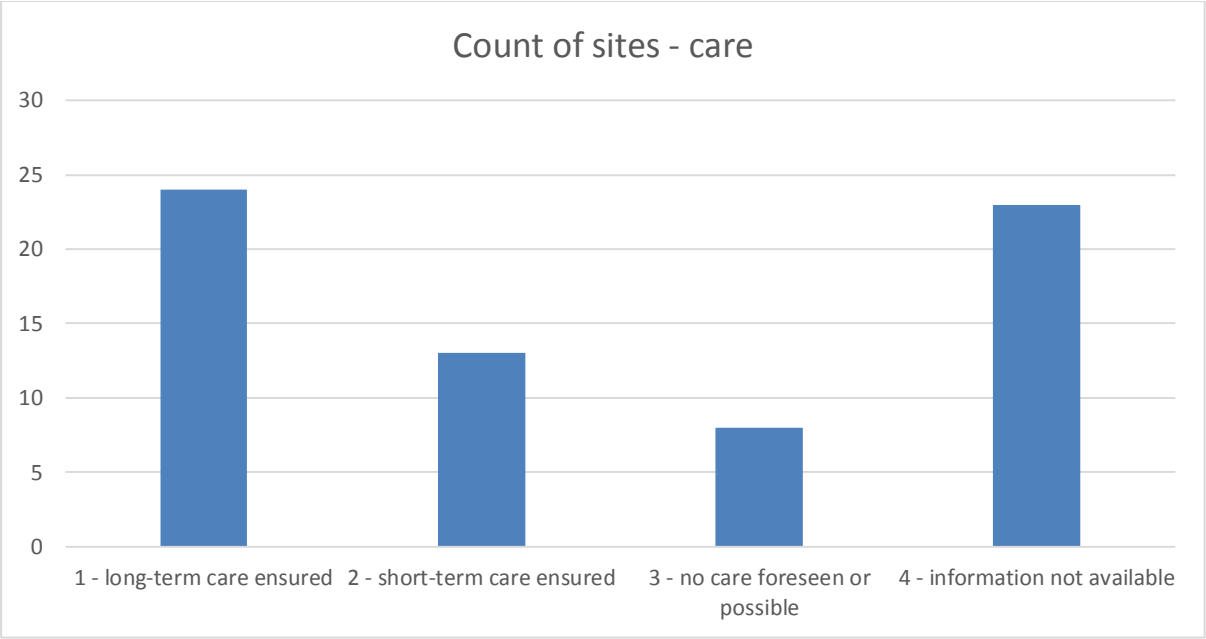


Figure 14: Long term care of sites

For this category it was in many cases not easy to obtain information. Still, the selection mainly includes sites for which at least short-term care is ensured (Fig. 14). This is linked to the types of managerial entities. We conducted research on the most closely associated management organisations and tried to assign them to one of the following categories:

Management type	association	region	natural park
	city/municipality	scientific organisation	non-governmental organisation
	cultural organisation	site	person
	institution	tourism stakeholder	other

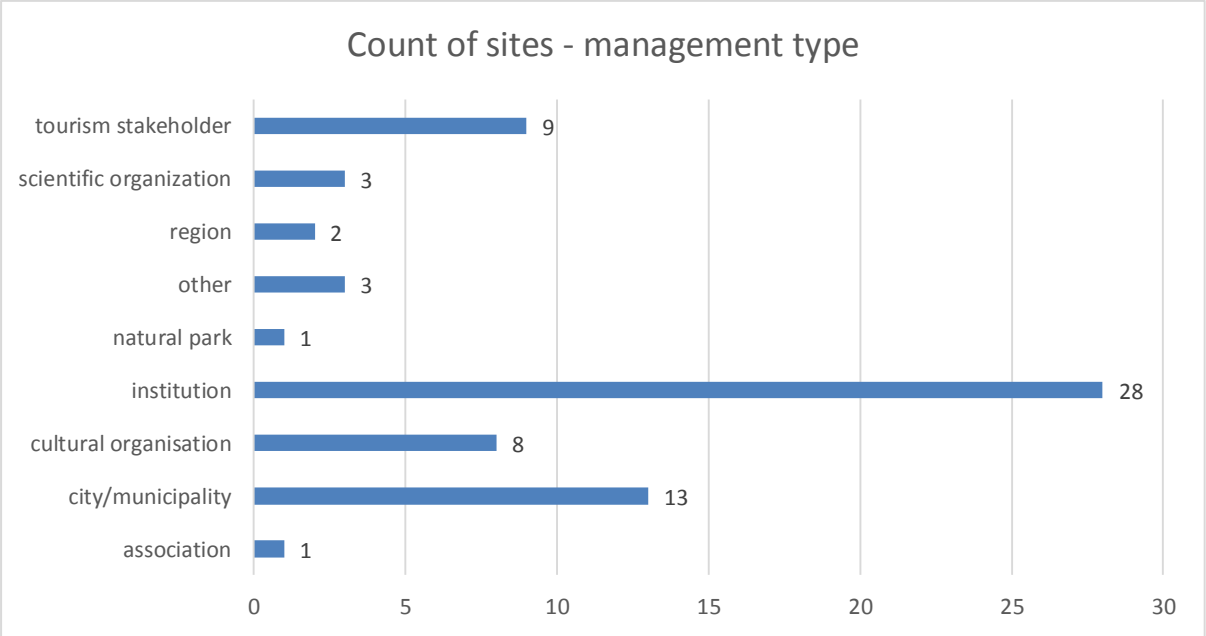


Figure 15: Type of dedicated management entity

A detailed evaluation shows that most sites (28) are managed by institutions, a category under which national or regional museums are subsumed (Fig. 15). Often these institutions manage the research at certain sites and also the dissemination and exhibition of finds in museums or on site. The compiled list in such cases mainly includes the sites as destinations, while the museums remain the target managerial entities that should be contacted in further steps of the process of setting up a Cultural Route. The second largest group (13) form destinations that are managed by cities/municipalities. Sometimes a dedicated association is in the foreground, but if the budgetary and decision-making power is held by communal entities, we put it in this group. In some instances (9) dedicated tourism stakeholders manage some destinations and almost the same number is managed by cultural organisations (8). Three sites have a scientific organisation in the background, where dissemination is part of third-party research funding. In only two cases are regional touristic initiatives responsible for the management of sites, and in one instance the site is managed within a natural park organisation.

Besides these directly related management entities, many sites are connected on a supra-regional level in networks or were part of international research projects that had the goal of developing networks for research, conservation and presentation.

Many sites with a focus on experimental archaeology and archaeological open-air museums with a dedicated focus on the Iron Age are part of the transnational network EXARC (https://exarc.net/members/venues, Fig. 16), the International Association of Archaeological Open-Air Museums. In Austria, destination Mitterkirchen (A6) and the Department of Prehistory of the Natural History Museum in Vienna (www.nhm-wien.ac.at/en/research/prehistory), the responsible research institution for Hallstatt (A1), are active members. In Hungary, the Matrica Múzeum és Régészeti Park, Százhalombatta (HU2) is included in this network. EXARC is affiliated to the International Council of Museums (ICOM), representing mainly open-air museums. Many museums are also incorporated in ICOM. Unfortunately, no complete list of members was available, thus no further information could be collected and considered in the study.

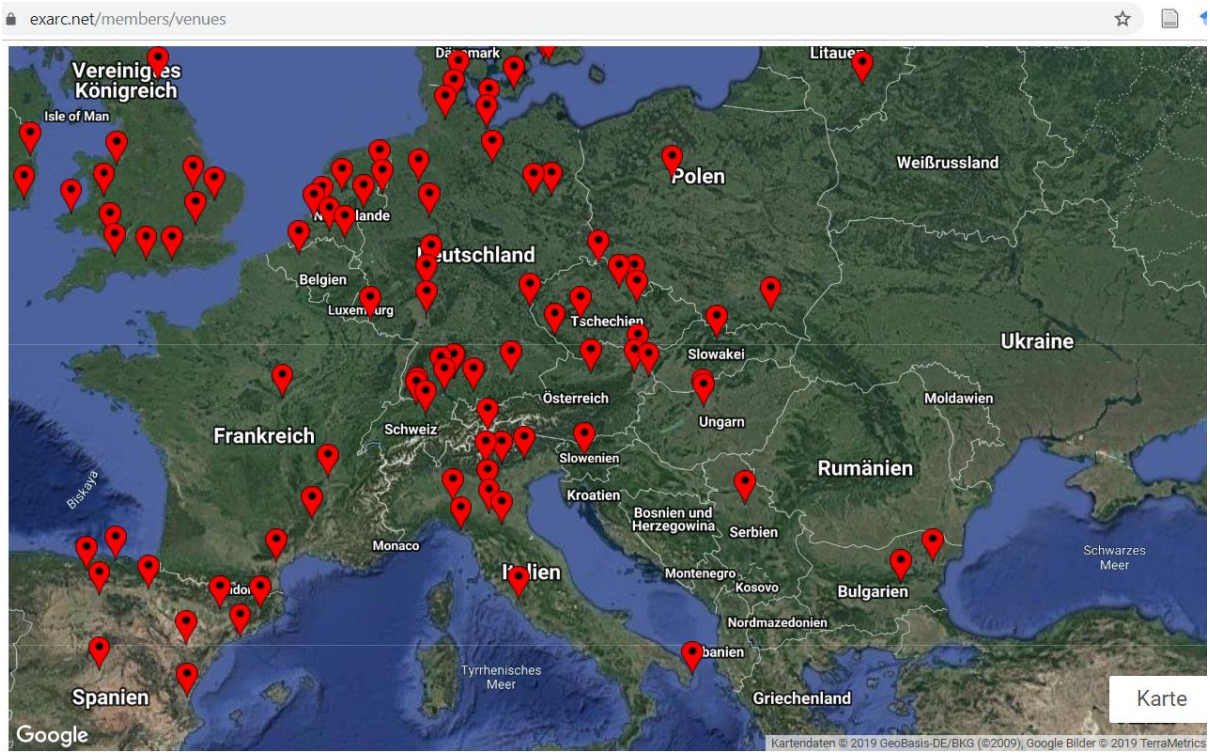


Figure 16: Map of EXARC members. Screenshot from http;//exarc.net/members/venues

Some of the sites are also included in the framework of international heritage organisations as items on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In Austria, the Iron Age industrial, residential and funeral areas of the alpine valley Hallstatt fall under the Hallstatt-Dachstein/Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape (https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/806, A1). In Bulgaria, the Iron Age Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari (https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/359, BG4) is considered a valuable addition to this list. Of the Dacian Fortresses of the Orastie Mountains in Romania (https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/906, RO1) the selection includes one destination that seemed best suited for inclusion in a Cultural Route.

While these networks can play a valuable role in the co-operation of destinations on a transnational level in the process of creating a Cultural Route, the quota of selected entities included is quite low. A much more prominent role should be attributed to networks that have been formed in the scope of international projects focusing on European Iron Age heritage. The European (Culture 2000) project Oppida – The First Towns North of the Alps, was carried out under the co-ordination of BIBRACTE Centre archéologique européen (France) from July 2005 to June 2008. One of the goals was to establish "a European network of oppida site managers and the preparation of a vademecum of good practice concerning their conservation and presentation" (www.oppida.org/project-programme_en_04.html#). It covers mainly the later Iron Age sites of the western part of the Danube Region. As a next step, the status of this network should be assessed. Another European initiative is the Culture project OpenArch (http://openarch.eu/about-openarch).

The most important thematic network to be included in the formation process of such a Cultural Route has been set up within the European project Iron-Age-Danube – Monumentalized Early Iron Age Landscapes in the Danube River Basin (Interreg) (www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/iron-age-danube). It is implemented under the co-ordination of the Universalmuseum Joanneum (Austria) as the lead partner (2017-2019), and one of the outputs was the establishment of an expert's working group and network. The main coverage of the data collected is in the partner countries Austria, Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia and all the sites and destinations in the selection were assessed and recorded within the project. It is highly recommended to build on this network and if possible extend it to other countries of the Danube Region.

Based on this assessment it can be stated that there are regional foci of networks, particularly based on previous international networks, which have been established in the course of interregional

projects with Iron Age heritage as a thematic topic. Further developments can build on these and "ensure an effective and continuous cooperation and collaboration among the different actors and the destinations involved in the planning of a cultural route", as demanded by the corresponding expert literature (Pattanaro and Pistocchi 2016: 93).

4. EXPERT'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ASSISTANCE NEEDED

For any Cultural Route there are many general elements that need to be taken into account; according to Pattanaro and Pistocchi (2016: Table 1), the following points should be addressed in the development of a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe:

- *1. Justification*: an Iron Age route can be justified in terms of protecting cultural heritage through the economic development of regions in a sustainable way
- *2. Goals: d*evelopment goals and objectives need to be made clearly visible to decision makers and stakeholders. The benefits must be achievable to make it attractive to potential partners. Co-operation among actors is necessary and fostering this is the task of the executive of a dedicated network.
- *3. Inventory:* this should include a list of assets and include as much information as is available. The provided list has tried to consider accessibility and so on in this first step, but further measures are clearly necessary.
- *4. Market potential:* to show potential partners and decision makers the benefits of being included in such a network, in-depth market research on the attractiveness of the theme, the touristic target groups and potential economic impact is needed.
- *5. Commercialisation of the itinerary:* many individual steps are necessary to activate a Cultural Route. This requires working with potential partners to collect critical data and building an itinerary where accessibility has been considered and assets have been checked, with suggested stops and appropriate tourist facilities. Here funding mechanisms are necessary as well as appropriate monitoring tools to ensure appeal for partners in the long term.

Based on these five points, the following recommendations have been provided.

Recommendation 1.1.

A network of supporting experts/institutions to take on the successive steps of a proposal on an Iron Age route should be created. This can be based on existing networks deriving from international projects, such as the Interreg Iron-Age-Danube (IAD) project.

Recommendation 1.2.

A central office needs to be set up for the proposal phase. The agreement of major stakeholders should be sought in evaluating the possibility of one of the institutions in the network providing facilities for this purpose.

Recommendation 1.3.

Dedicated personnel for an initial phase should be provided to deal with managerial tasks. This phase should be scheduled over at least 12 months and include 1 to 2 persons with appropriate funding for travel to destinations in all regions.

Recommendation 1.4.

A funding mechanism for this phase and a financial kick-off should be identified. Possibilities range from obtaining contributions of network members to engaging additional interested stakeholders from destinations. Additionally, European funds or private sponsors should be considered.

Recommendation 2.1.

A clear mission statement on the thematic part of the proposed Cultural Route must be developed by network members. A cohesive, appealing narrative is needed that is formulated in language understandable to stakeholders from diverse fields.

Recommendation 2.2.

For the effective communication of the proposed Cultural Route, an online platform should be created. The development of a visual identity (logo, etc.) is one of the first steps necessary to support this goal.

Recommendation 2.3.

Benefits offered to targeted destinations and management entities should be identified and presented to potential interested parties. This can be done through direct contact during visits of local tourism agencies and municipalities, or at targeted information events with invited candidates, possibly within the scope of thematic conferences.

Recommendation 2.4.

Initiatives to rally political support for the proposal are highly recommended. Here, the existing contacts of members of the network can be beneficial to promote the proposal to key political figures and make it more attractive to new actors (e.g. municipalities).

Recommendation 2.5.

The candidates provided in the initial list in this study (Appendix 1) should be internally evaluated, with the involvement of regional specialists from the research, monument protection and tourism sectors within the network. The general potential of the candidate destinations should be assessed. The same applies to the interest of management entities for collaboration within a Cultural Route. There should be agreement on the main objectives among interested stakeholders from different destinations.

Recommendation 3.1.

An inventory should be made of the entities comprising the itinerary from the index of sites and destinations. A more detailed and accurate listing of assets and the collection of all information

available is necessary. Verified accessibility of monuments, facilities and transportation plays a major role in the inclusion of sites and destinations.

Recommendation 4.1.

The itinerary should try to reach a diverse range of visitors. Tourism offers should include regional food and drink destinations as well as cultural heritage sites. To evaluate the potential of the Iron Age sites collected, market research should be planned that considers the variation in regional development and existing touristic products.

Recommendation 4.2.

In cases where already existing itineraries or other cultural heritage programmes offer synergies, collaboration should be considered.

Recommendation 5.1.

Development concepts and visitor facilities for destinations need to be checked and accessibility and thematic coherence evaluated. Time assessments for the travel time of visitors from the next public transport hub, the visiting time of individual attractions and the number of stops need to be defined.

Recommendation 5.2.

An appropriate monitoring system for all aspects of the route has to be put into place. The economic benefits for the regions, socio-economic sustainability, and the satisfaction of visitors as well as their effect on the condition of the monuments have to be monitored. Financial support to implement monitoring schemes from other Cultural Routes must be ensured.

Recommendation 5.3.

A launch date for the Route has to be specified.

Recommendation 5.4.

Funding mechanisms for the long-term sustainability of the route need to be identified.

APPENDIX 1 – IRON AGE HERITAGE INVENTORY OF SITES AND DESTINATIONS

Austria

SITE/DESTINATION	HALLSTATT
management type	tourism stakeholder
management name	Salzwelten GmbH
management link	www.salzwelten.at
management contact	Mag. Harald Pernkopf: +43 6132 200 2489
other associated institution	Natural History Museum Vienna
other associated contact	Mag. Hans Reschreiter: hans.reschreiter@nhm-wien.ac.at

SITE/DESTINATION	STRETTWEG
management type	scientific organisation
management name	Arbeitskreis Falkenberg
management link	www.fuerstengrab-strettweg.at
management contact	Mag. Dr. Franz Bachmann: info@fuerstengrab-strettweg.at
other associated institution	University of Graz, Institute of Archaeology; Regionalmuseum Murtal für Ur- und Frühgeschichte; Stadtmuseum Judenburg

SITE/DESTINATION	GROßKLEIN
management type	city/municipality
management name	Museum Großklein
management link	www.museum-grossklein.at
management contact	Mag. Susanne Niebler: museum@grossklein.gv.at
other associated institution	Universalmuseum Joanneum Graz

SITE/DESTINATION	GURINA
management type	city/municipality
management name	Archäologischer Park Gurina (Landesmuseum Klagenfurt)
management link	http://gurina.dellach.at/Archaeologischer-Park.705.0.html
management contact	Paul Gleirscher: paul.gleirscher@landesmuseum.ktn.gv.at

SITE/DESTINATION	SCHWARZENBACH
management type	city/municipality

management name	Municipality Schwarzenbach
management link	www.schwarzenbach.gv.at
management contact	gemeinde@schwarzenbach.gv.at
other associated institution	Vienna Institute for Archaeological Science
other associated contact	Wolfgang Lobisser: wolfgang.lobisser@univie.ac.at

SITE/DESTINATION	**MITTERKIRCHEN IM MACHLAND**
management type	city/municipality
management name	Keltendorf Mitterkirchen
management link	www.mitterkirchen.at/Keltendorf
management contact	freilichtmuseum@mitterkirchen.at
other associated institution	Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum
other associated contact	Jutta Leskovar: j.leskovar@landesmuseum.at

SITE/DESTINATION	**DÜRRNBERG**
management type	tourism stakeholder
management name	Salzwelten GmbH
management link	www.salzwelten.at
management contact	Mag. Harald Pernkopf: +43 6132 200 2489
other associated institution	Natural History Museum Vienna
other associated contact	Mag. Hans Reschreiter: hans.reschreiter@nhm-wien.ac.at

Bosnia and Herzegovina

SITE/DESTINATION	**DONJA DOLINA**
management type	institution
management name	Homeland Museum of Gradiška
management link	http://muzejgradiska.com
other associated institution	Turistička organizacija opštine Gradiška
other associated contact	http://togradiska.com; to.gradiska@gmail.com

SITE/DESTINATION	**GLASINAC**
management type	tourism stakeholder
management name	Tourism organisation, Republika Srpska
management link	https://turizamrs.org/en
management contact	tors@teol.net

SITE/DESTINATION	POD (BUGOJNO)
management type	institution
management name	Zemaljski muzej, Bosnia and Herzegovina
management link	www.zemaljskimuzej.ba/en
management contact	kontakt@zemaljskimuzej.ba

Bulgaria

SITE/DESTINATION	ADA TEPE
management type	institution
management name	Regional Museum of History Kardzhali
management link	www.rim-kardzhali.bg
management contact	+359 361 635 84
other associated institution	Archaeological Institute with Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; Austrian Academy of Sciences – OREA

SITE/DESTINATION	ZLATOSEL
management type	institution
management name	The Regional Archaeological Museum in Plovdiv
management link	www.archaeologicalmuseumplovdiv.org
management contact	RAM.Plovdiv@gmail.com
other associated contact	Valeria Fol: valfol@yahoo.com

SITE/DESTINATION	PERPERIKON
management type	institution
management name	Regional Museum of History Kardzhali
management link	www.rim-kardzhali.bg
management contact	+359 361 635 84

SITE/DESTINATION	SVEŠTARI/SBORYANOVO
management type	institution
management name	Historic Museum Isperih
management link	www.museumisperih.com
management contact	museumisperih@yahoo.com; museumisperih@gmail.com
other associated institution	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

other associated contact	http://naim.bg/en/home

Croatia

SITE/DESTINATION	KAPTOL, POŽEGA
management type	institution
management name	Gradski muzej Požega
management link	www.gmp.hr
management contact	info@gmp.hr
other associated institution	University of Zagreb
other associated contact	Hrvoje Potrebica: hpotrebi@ffzg.hr

SITE/DESTINATION	JALŽABET
management type	institution
management name	Gradski muzej Varaždin
management link	www.gmv.hr/en
management contact	Anita Peričić: anita.pericic@gmv.hr
other associated institution	Archaeological Museum in Zagreb
other associated contact	Saša Kovačević: sasa.kovacevic@iarh.hr

SITE/DESTINATION	VIS (ISSA)
management type	tourism stakeholder
management name	Turistička zajednica grada Visa
management link	www.tz-vis.hr
management contact	tzg-visa@st.t-com.hr
other associated institution	Arheološki muzej grada Visa
other associated contact	+385 99 788 5027

SITE/DESTINATION	SISAK
management type	institution
management name	Gradski muzej Sisak
management link	www.muzej-sisak.hr
management contact	tzgsiska@tzgsiska.tcloud.hr

SITE/DESTINATION	VIZAČE (NESACTIUM)
management type	institution

management name	Arheološki muzej Istre
management link	www.ami-pula.hr/en
management contact	Darko Komso: darko.komso@ami-pula.hr

Czech Republic

SITE/DESTINATION	BOUDY
management type	scientific organisation
management name	Institute of Archaeology of the CAS, Prague, V. V. I.
management link	www.arup.cas.cz
management contact	arupraha@arup.cas.cz

SITE/DESTINATION	BÝČÍ SKÁLA
management type	association
management name	Fundamental organisation of the Czech Speleological Society, Number 6-01, Bull Rock
management link	www.byciskala.com
management contact	Ing. Aleš Pekárek: ales@rawet.cz

SITE/DESTINATION	STRADONICE U PÁTKU
management type	scientific organisation
management name	Institute of Archaeology of the CAS, Prague, V. V. I.
management link	www.arup.cas.cz
management contact	arupraha@arup.cas.cz
other associated institution	Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences
other associated contact	Alena Rybová; Petr Drda

SITE/DESTINATION	ŠŤÁHLAVY (-HÁJEK)
management type	city/municipality
management name	Tourist Information Centre of the City of Pilsen
management link	www.pilsen.eu/tourist/information/tourist-information/tourist-information-centre.aspx
management contact	info@visitplzen.eu
other associated institution	University of West Bohemia, Department of Archaeology
other associated contact	Ladislav Šmejda

SITE/DESTINATION	VĚNEC

management type	cultural organisation
management name	Kulturně okrašlovacího spolek Čkyně
management link	www.kosckyne.cz
management contact	kosckyne@seznam.cz

SITE/DESTINATION	**VŠESTARY**
management type	cultural organisation
management name	Archeopark Všestary
management link	http://archeoparkvsestary.cz
management contact	archeoparkvsestary@seznam.cz

SITE/DESTINATION	**ZÁVIST**
management type	cultural organisation
management name	Regional Information Centre Celtic Settlement Envy
management link	www.ric-dolnibrezany.cz
management contact	ric@dolnibrezany.cz

Germany

SITE/DESTINATION	**HEUNEBURG**
management type	city/municipality
management name	Keltenmuseum Heuneburg in Herbertingen
management link	www.heuneburg.de
management contact	info@heuneburg.de

SITE/DESTINATION	**GLAUBERG (NOT IN THE DANUBE REGION)**
management type	institution
management name	Archäologischen Landesmuseums Hessen
management link	www.keltenwelt-glauberg.de; https://lfd.hessen.de
management contact	Dr. Katrin Bek: Katrin.Bek@lfd-hessen.de

SITE/DESTINATION	**HOCHDORF**
management type	cultural organisation
management name	Keltenmuseum Hochdorf
management link	www.keltenmuseum.de
management contact	keltenmuseum@t-online.de

other associated institution	Förderverein Keltenmuseum Hochdorf
other associated contact	www.foerderverein-keltenmuseum.de

SITE/DESTINATION	**MANCHING**
management type	cultural organisation
management name	Zweckverband kelten römer museum manching
management link	www.museum-manching.de
management contact	info@museum-manching.de

SITE/DESTINATION	**ALTMÜHLTAL**
management type	region
management name	Tourismusverband im Landkreis Kelheim e.V.
management link	www.tourismus-landkreis-kelheim.de/erleben/kultur-und-geschichte/archaeologiepark-altmuehltal/Stationen-Archaeologiepark-Altmuehltal
other associated institution	Kreisarchäologie Landkreis Kelheim
other associated contact	www.landkreis-kelheim.de

Hungary

SITE/DESTINATION	**VELEM-SZENTVID**
management type	cultural organisation
management name	GesztenyeKék Természet-barát Egyesület
management link	http://gesztenyekek.hu
management contact	gesztenyekek@gmail.com
other associated institution	Nature park Írottkő

SITE/DESTINATION	**SZÁZHALOMBATTA**
management type	institution
management name	Matrica Museum
management link	http://matricamuzeum.hu/en
management contact	info@matricamuzeum.hu

SITE/DESTINATION	**SOPRON**
management type	institution
management name	Museum of Sopron

management link	https://sopronimuzeum.hu/en
management contact	muzeum.titkarsag@muzeum.sopron.hu

SITE/DESTINATION	**BUDAPEST – HUNGARIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM**
management type	institution
management name	Hungarian National Museum
management link	https://mnm.hu/en
management contact	Szabolcs Czifra: czifra.szabolcs@hnm.hu

Moldova

SITE/DESTINATION	**SAHARNA MARE**
management type	institution
management name	The National Museum of History of Moldova
management link	www.nationalmuseum.md/en
management contact	office@nationalmuseum.md
other associated institution	State University of Moldova, Chișinău

SITE/DESTINATION	**OLD ORHEI**
management type	city/municipality
management name	Orhei city hall
management link	www.orhei.md

SITE/DESTINATION	**CHIȘINĂU – THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF MOLDOVA**
management type	institution
management name	The National Museum of History of Moldova
management link	www.nationalmuseum.md
management contact	office@nationalmuseum.md

Montenegro

SITE/DESTINATION	**DOCLEA**
management type	institution
management name	Ancient city Duklja (PI Museums and Galleries of Podgorica)

management link	www.antickadukljacg.com/en/doclea
management contact	pgmuzej@t-com.me

SITE/DESTINATION	**GOTOVUŠA**
management type	tourism stakeholder
management name	Turistička organizacija Pljevlja
management link	https://topljevlja.me/?lang=en
management contact	topljevlja@t-com.me

SITE/DESTINATION	**MIJELA**
management type	natural park
management name	Nacionalni parkovi Crne Gore
management link	www.nparkovi.me
management contact	npcg@nparkovi.me
other associated institution	JP Kulturni Centar Bar, Muzej kralja Nikole
other associated contact	http://kulturnicentarbar.me/jpkcbar/festivali/muzej
	vkas@t-com.me

Romania

SITE/DESTINATION	**SARMIZEGETUSA REGIA**
management type	city/municipality
management name	Serviciul Public de Administrare a Monumentelor Istorice
management link	https://cetateasarmizegetusa.ro
management contact	+40 254 211 350

SITE/DESTINATION	**ȘIMLEU DEPRESSION**
management type	institution
management name	Museum of History and Art in Zalau
management link	http://muzeuzalau.ro
management contact	contact@muzeuzalau.ro

SITE/DESTINATION	**CIUMEȘTI**
management type	tourism stakeholder
management name	Romania Tourism
management link	http://romaniatourism.com/satu-mare.html

management contact	partner@romaniatourism.com
other associated institution	Satu Mare County Museum
other associated contact	www.zothmar.ro

SITE/DESTINATION	**PIATRA ROŞIE**
management type	cultural organisation
management name	Fundația Dacica
management link	www.fundatia.dacica.ro
management contact	fundatia@dacica.ro
other associated institution	Piatra Roşie
other associated contact	www.piatra-rosie.ro; contect@dacica.ro

Serbia

SITE/DESTINATION	**ŽIDOVAR**
management type	tourism stakeholder
management name	Tourism Organisation of Vršac
management link	www.to.vrsac.com
management contact	toovrsac013@yahoo.com; toovrsac013@gmail.com
other associated institution	Museum of Vršac; Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Institute for Balkan Studies
other associated contact	www.muzejvrsac.org.rs; muzejvrsac@mts.rs

SITE/DESTINATION	**NOVI SAD**
management type	Institution
management name	Museum of Vojvodina
management link	www.muzejvojvodine.org.rs
management contact	Lidija Balj: lidija.balj@muzejvojvodine.org.rs

SITE/DESTINATION	**BELGRADE**
management type	institution
management name	National Museum in Belgrade
management link	www.narodnimuzej.rs
management contact	kontakt@narodnimuzej.rs
other associated institution	Arheološki Institut (RS)
other associated contact	www.ai.ac.rs/eng.php; Knez Mihailova 35/IV, 11000 Belgrade (+381) 11-2637191

SITE/DESTINATION	LAZAREVA (ZLOTSKA) PEĆINA
management type	tourism stakeholder
management name	Turistička organizacija Bor
management link	http://tobor.rs
management contact	tobor030@mts.rs

SITE/DESTINATION	ČAČAK (REGION)
management type	institution
management name	National Museum Čačak
management link	www.cacakmuzej.org.rs
management contact	Katarina Dmitrović: katarina.dmitrovic@gmail.com
other associated institution	Institute of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy and Institute of History, Belgrade

SITE/DESTINATION	GOMOLAVA
management type	city/municipality
management name	Tourist organisation of the Municipality of Ruma
management link	http://rumatourism.com/en
management contact	ruma.too@gmail.com

Slovak Republic

SITE/DESTINATION	SMOLENICE-MOLPÍR
management type	institution
management name	Molpír Museum
management link	http://regiontirnavia.sk/de/sehen-und-erleben/smolenice/museum-molpir
other associated institution	SAS, Institute of Archaeology
other associated contact	Zuzana Rajtarova: zuzana.rajtarova@savba.sk

SITE/DESTINATION	HAVRÁNOK – LIPTOVSKÁ MARA
management type	region
management name	Archaeological museum Havránok
management link	www.visitliptov.sk/en/zaujimavosti/archaeological-museum-havranok
management contact	havranok@liptovskemuzeum.sk

SITE/DESTINATION	BRATISLAVA HRAD

management type	city/municipality
management name	Bratislavský Hrad
management link	www.bratislava-hrad.sk
management contact	bratislavskyhrad@snm.sk

SITE/DESTINATION	**JÁNOVCE**
management type	scientific organisation
management name	Institute of Archaeology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences
management link	http://archeol.sav.sk/index.php/en
management contact	nrausekr@savba.sk

SITE/DESTINATION	**DEVÍN**
management type	institution
management name	Bratislava city museum
management link	www.muzeum.bratislava.sk/en
management contact	hrad.devin@centrum.sk

Slovenia

SITE/DESTINATION	**MOST NA SOČI**
management type	institution
management name	Tolminski muzej
management link	www.tol-muzej.si
management contact	muzej@tol-muzej.si
other associated institution	ZRC SAZU Institute for Archaeology
other associated contact	Drago Svoljšak, Janez Dular

SITE/DESTINATION	**NOVO MESTO**
management type	institution
management name	Dolenjski muzej
management link	www.dolenjskimuzej.si
management contact	Petra Stipančić: petra.stipancic@dolenjskimuzej.si

SITE/DESTINATION	**DOLENJSKE TOPLICE**
management type	institution
management name	Dolenjski muzej

management link	www.dolenjskimuzej.si
management contact	Petra Stipančić: petra.stipancic@dolenjskimuzej.si
other associated institution	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology
other associated contact	Matija Črešnar: matija.cresnar@ff.uni-lj.si

SITE/DESTINATION	**POŠTELA AND HOČE**
management type	institution
management name	Pokrajinski muzej Maribor
management link	https://museum-mb.si/en
management contact	museum@museum-mb.si
other associated institution	Botanical garden of University of Maribor; University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology
other associated contact	http://botanicnivrt.um.si/pages/en/botanical-garden/opening-times-contact-location.php; Matija Črešnar: matija.cresnar@ff.uni-lj.si

SITE/DESTINATION	**VAČE**
management type	association
management name	Društvo za razvoj in varovanje GEOSS-a, organizacijska enota Strokovni centre GEOSS
management link	http://geoss.eu/arheoloski-pohod-po-poti-velikega-kneza-z-vac
management contact	info@geoss.eu

SITE/DESTINATION	**MAGDALENSKA GORA**
management type	cultural organisation
management name	Turistično društvo Šmarje-Sap
management link	www.smarje-sap.si/turisti_269_no_dru_tvo.html
management contact	ks.smarje.sap@siol.net

Ukraine

SITE/DESTINATION	**MUKACHEVO**
management type	other
management name	Celtic Yard
management link	http://keltic-yard.com
management contact	

SITE/DESTINATION	UŽHOROD
management type	city/municipality
management name	Transcarpathian Museum of Local History
management link	www.zkmuseum.com

SITE/DESTINATION	KHOTIV
management type	city/municipality
management name	Khotiv city hall
management link	http://khotiv-rada.gov.ua
management contact	khotiv-rada@khotiv-rada.gov.ua

SITE/DESTINATION	ODESSA
management type	institution
management name	Odessa Archaeological Museum
management link	http://archaeology.odessa.ua/eng/index
management contact	archaeology.odessa@gmail.com

SITE/DESTINATION	MALAJA KOPAŇA
management type	institution
management name	Odessa Archaeological Museum (no local entity identifiable)
management link	http://archaeology.odessa.ua/eng/index
management contact	archaeology.odessa@gmail.com

SITE/DESTINATION	KUŠTANOVICE
management type	institution
management name	Odessa Archaeological Museum (no local entity identifiable)
management link	http://archaeology.odessa.ua/eng/index
management contact	archaeology.odessa@gmail.com

APPENDIX 2 – REFERENCES

Methodology

Council of Europe (2019), "Roadmap for the Danube Region – Strengthening regional development through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe", Cultural Routes 3, Routes4U Project, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg.

Czajlik, Z. et al. (eds) (2019), "Researching archaeological landscapes across borders. Strategies, methods and decisions for the 21st century", Archaeolingua, Budapest.

Kibblewhite, M., Tóth, G. and Hermann, T. (2016), "Maps of preservation capacity of cultural artefacts and buried materials in soils in the EU", dataset/maps downloaded from the European Soil Data Centre, available at https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/content/maps-related-predicting-preservation-cultural-artefacts-and-buried-materials-soils-eu-0, accessed 16 September 2019.

Pattanaro, G. and Pistocchi, F. (2016), "Linking destinations through sustainable Cultural Routes", available at http://dx.doi.org/10.4468/2016.1.08pattanaro.pistocchi accessed 1 October 2019.

World Tourism Organization (2015), "Affiliate Members global report: volume 12 – Cultural Routes and itineraries", UNWTO, Madrid.

Cultural history

Collis, J. (1984), *Oppida: earliest towns north of the Alps*, Sheffield University, Sheffield.

Collis, J. (2003), *The European Iron Age* (2nd edn), Routledge, London.

Cunliffe, B. (2018), *The ancient Celts* (2nd edn), Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Müller-Scheeßel, N. (2000), *Die Hallstattkultur und ihre räumliche Differenzierung. Der West- und Osthallstattkreis aus forschungsgeschichtlicher-methodologischer Sicht*, Leidorf, Rahden.

Data sources/databases

Iron-Age-Danube project: www.iron-age-danube.eu

APIS, Aerial Archive, University of Vienna: https://luftbildarchiv.univie.ac.at (access granted by the University of Vienna)

ÖAW, Lexikon zur keltischen Archäologie Online Edition: https://austriaca.at/6765-5?frames=yes (access granted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences)

TOMBA: www3.rgzm.de/tomba

TRANSFORMATION project: https://www2.rgzm.de/transformation/home/FramesUK.cfm

Oppida project: www.oppida.org/index-en.html

EXARC Experimental Archaeology Collection: https://exarc.net/members/venues

OPENARCH Open-Air Museums: http://openarch.eu/members

APPENDIX 3 – PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Cultural-historical coverage: European Iron Age – First millennium BC

Spatial coverage: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria), Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Ukraine (Odessa, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia), Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Romania

Thematic coverage: archaeological sites, museums, villages and towns, associations

Methodology:

- desktop assessment:
  - literature research in the University of Vienna Library and OREA – Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences;
  - literature research using online resources;
  - investigation of thematic transnational databases (web-based and local – University of Vienna and Austrian Academy of Sciences);
- data collection on candidates in spatial database considering:
  - the character of the sites;
  - thematic relevance and attractiveness;
  - infrastructure and touristic development;
- data collection on the ground:
  - individual investigation and contacting of local institutions (where possible);
  - contacting and interviewing regional experts;
- data evaluation and selection considering:
  - reflection of diversity and potential to increase the visibility of the Danube Region;
  - potential for development;
- Compilation of desired resulting sites in list form.