South East Europe Project DANUBE LIMES BRAND

Extension of the Danube Limes UNESCO World Heritage in the Lower Danube

Protecting our heritage from destruction

After surviving since antiquity the archaeological landscapes, sites and monuments in the Danube countries are more threatened than ever before, because of rapid urban and rural development. The extension of the multinational UNESCO World Heritage Site “Frontiers of the Roman Empire” into the Danube countries will help to establish a long-term and sustainable protection in preparing various requirements for new nomination documents. National and regional authorities and stakeholders will be provided with concrete results for their policies and the management of the Limes heritage, national and cross-border follow-up initiatives will be facilitated.

Next to the United Kingdom and Germany already Hungary and Slovakia have prepared their UNESCO nomination documents and five more countries along the river Danube have indicated the intention to nominate their sections for the UNESCO inscription (Austria, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania) (Copyright: CE Projekt Danube Limes; edited by Kurt Schaller)

The southern gate of the legionary fortress at Aquincum has been preserved in a densely populated area of the modern city of Budapest (Photo: Zsolt Visy, Pécs)

The forlet of Boljetin on the bank of the Danube was excavated in 1969 and flooded after the construction of the coffer-dam (Photo: Archaeological Institute Belgrad)

The Danube Limes — a flagship project of the European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

Transnational project activities will foster a network of Limes sites and institutions to create a wide body of study, analysis and dissemination of the cultural and economic values of this distinctive heritage, as well as a common place for sharing a high quality knowledge and experience, with the added value of exchanging expertise and different approaches and stimulating cooperation within the Danube countries. Similar sites vary considerably in impact. Analysis of the regional impacts will be followed by the definition of the desired improvements to find the best partners, initiate best actions and develop conceptual strategies for individual Limes destinations. This will prepare the ground to make the historic environment more intellectually accessible and enjoyable, to visit for both tourists and local residents.

The extension of the multinational UNESCO World Heritage Site “Frontiers of the Roman Empire” into the Danube countries, initiated by Hungary and Slovakia in the Central Europe project “Danube Limes — UNESCO World Heritage” (2008–2011) will now take the results and lessons learnt on to the next level in establishing collaboration with partners linked to cultural heritage protection and marketing into the Lower Danube countries. The CE project “Danube Limes — UNESCO World Heritage” was successfully finished in December 2011 with the nomination documents for Hungary and Slovakia and the final CE project publication “In the Frontiers of the Romans: Guidelines to nominate new Danube Limes sections in other Danube countries” (Copyright: CE Projekt “Danube Limes”)

Symbolic of division and conflict, the Danube Limes now provides an ideal context through which to promote common identity and cultural heritage values in modern Southeast Europe. This mission will be achieved by the following objectives:

• Long-term and sustainable preservation of Limes monuments through nominating new frontier sections for World Heritage status in the Lower Danube countries
• Development of a joint action strategy for the Danube Limes from the Black Forest to the Black Sea
• Create brand modules for a Danube Limes destination
• Intergovernmental cooperation in developing, improving and presenting individual Limes sites

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