

# ISTER Connecting hiSTorical Danube rEgions Roman routes

## ISTER Interactive Tool

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## ISTER project - Connecting hiSTorical Danube rEgions Roman routes

### ISTER General issues

ISTER project firstly addresses the challenge of Roman heritage discontinuity, which reflects both in a territorial dimension related to a low level of investment and connection between heritage resources and local/ regional productive sectors, as well as in visualisation and attractiveness dimensions regarding the promotion and awareness raising on the importance of heritage resources as drivers for regional development. Stepping further the isolated/ detached Roman settlements heritage, ISTER tackles the territorial dimension of the Roman Routes, as a contiguous transnational element that passes DR states' borders and provides a relevant scale for exchange and joint development. Therefore, ISTER's main objective focuses on rediscovering and revitalizing the ancient Roman Roads Network along the DR as a key driver in promoting territorial development based on sustainable use of cultural and natural heritage (specifically, Roman routes). ISTER promotes this Roman roads and settlements network as a catalyst for touristic development, as well as an opportunity for territorial competitiveness and sustainable growth of Danube crossed-regions. To increase local attractiveness, ISTER is leveraging on three key assets:

1. Adopting a multi-layered governance chain aimed at strengthening knowledge framework and institutional capacities of DR actors through capacity building and collective knowledge mapping;
2. Using advanced tools and technologies for enhancing non-physical accessibility, visibility and valorisation of Roman routes and settlements network, laying the foundation for a thematic cultural route based on Roman heritage with a narrative function, reviving ancient assets and promoting non-renewable and fragile, but yet unexplored and unexploited Roman legacy;

3. Acquiring the shift from old policy approaches (protection through isolation) to new, integrative methods for improving the policy and regulatory framework in Danube crossed-regions.

### **ISTER Mapping and Atlas functionalities**

Systematically collecting the information about Roman Routes and sites in a co-ordinated, georeferenced way and build information systems on this basis is one of the central elements of ISTER. The status of the available data is very different throughout the whole Danube Region – whereas i.e. in Carnuntum / Austria there are very extensive and systematic databases and information systems and also online tools available, there are some other – remote – regions, where data has to be collected, i.e. by remote sensing (aerial photography, satellite imagery, ...), even some field surveys and excavation works will have to be done.

One of the core tasks of ISTER project is the Development of a GIS-based territorial Atlas (Mock-up) of Roman routes legacy in Danube Region.

### **ISTER Interactive Tool**

Based on the extensive data collection and development of the territorial Atlas ISTER Interactive tool (Mock-up) will be a digital collaborative application, aimed at supporting the Roman eco-cultural route valorisation, as well as effective communication and awareness raising on ISTER findings related to the Roman roads and settlements network. The interactive tool will provide a user-friendly interface, loading valuable content on the rich Roman routes' legacy, serving as an open-source knowledge portal and allowing for collaborative contributions.

Since the interactive tool has to meet both transnational and locally-specific needs and challenges, we are conducting a user requirements survey for ISTER territorial partners and external stakeholders to collect all input and expectations.

The survey comprises the following sections:

- Apps' key functions and processes;
- Available web content for the app;
- Target audience;
- Purpose of clients using the app.

The survey template has been prepared by University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU) who is in charge of developing a responsive website within an "application container", which allows for the deployment of a useable mobile application. Therefore, input from different stakeholders is highly necessary to understand common and specific needs for the interactive tool.

The Mock-up of Transnational interactive tool will be the first version of the open digital app for Roman eco-cultural route valorisation, comprising 3 main components:

- 1) Tracking option with way finder QR codes,
- 2) recommendations for accommodation and places to eat, as well as thematically-related events and
- 3) collaborative story-telling. The app will have the following functionalities:
  - Responsive web application and a mobile application based on open source products

- Integration of the GIS Atlas of the Roman Routes, as base map in the application and integration of the Catalogue documentary;
- User Login / Registration / Personal User Profile section, which can include, but is not limited to user photo, short description, location and event history, etc.
- Demo tracking option (similar with relive: <https://www.relive.cc/?hl=en> or <https://www.ko-moot.com/>), allowing for the possibility to add thematic pictures/stories on the way;
- Mapping of recommendations for accommodation units and places to eat along the way; • Mapping the set of physical Roman inspired milestones and info points (according to the small-scale investments in ISTER partner territories);
- Notification settings (i.e. if there are Roman festivals or other thematic events going on along/ near the Roman route). For demonstration purposes, the uploaded content (especially in what concerns the story-telling part, i.e. test images and test stories) will be provided by partners and checked and approved by the app provider.

The Interactive tool will continuously receive input from ISTER partners and end users, even beyond the official end of ISTER project

Even though the Interactive digital tool adopts a user-friendly interface, a user guide is highly necessary, in order to provide a comprehensive explanation of the app’s technicalities. Therefore, the user guide will comprise the following sections:

- Presentation of the app’s purpose and functionality;
- Navigating the Web app and log-in requirements;
- Browsing accommodation, places to eat, events, stories (including pictures, media, videos, etc);
- Uploading stories content (media files) from the Roman Roads and settlements along the Roman Route in DR;
- Customizable settings (language, notifications, etc).

The user guide will be available in English and a brief transnational will be available in all languages of ISTER partner territories/ states, in order to facilitate a wider access to the app purpose, content and functionalities.

## ISTER project partners

ISTER consortium consist of the following partners from the whole Danube Region:

*Table 1. Project Consortium of ISTER project*

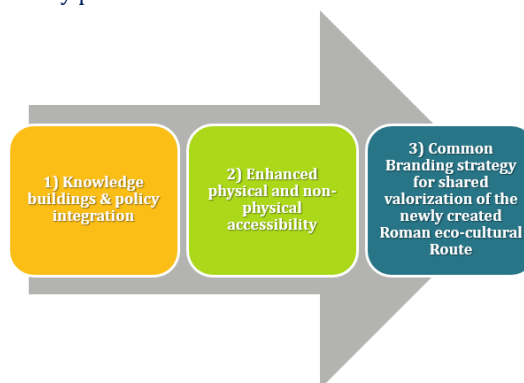
Name	Type	Country
National Museum for the History of Transylvania	Lead partner	Romania
URBASOFIA SRL	ERDF partner	Romania
Alba Iulia Municipality	ERDF partner	Romania
Bulgaria Economic Forum	ERDF partner	Bulgaria
DDTG Danube Development Transnational Group nonprofit limited liability company	ERDF partner	Hungary

Municipality of Town Veszprém with County Rank	ERDF partner	Hungary
Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana	ERDF partner	Slovenia
Scientific Reserch Centre Bistra Ptuj	ERDF partner	Slovenia
Geodetic Institute of Slovenia	ERDF partner	Slovenia
Regional Planning Authority of Ostwuerttemberg	ERDF partner	Germany
pakora.net – Network for Towns and Regions	ERDF partner	Germany
Roman City Carnuntum/ Archaeological Park Carnuntum	ERDF partner	Austria
Town Museum of Paks	ERDF partner	Hungary
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences	ERDF partner	Austria
Regional Agency for Development and European Integration Belgrade	IPA partner	Serbia
PUBLIC INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE UNA- SANA CANTON	IPA partner	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Salaj County Council	Associated partner	Romania
City Municipality Ptuj (MOP)	Associated partner	Slovenia
Vidin Regional History Museum	Associated partner	Bulgaria
TOURIST OFFICE OF THE CITY OF BIHAC	Associated partner	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Partner Name English Association for Ecomuseum Casilino Ad- DuasLauros	Associated partner	Austria
OMNIA URBES	Associated partner	Austria
The German Limes Road Association	Associated partner	Germany
Partner Name English National Institute of Heritage	Associated partner	Romania
Laczkó Dezső Múzeum	Associated partner	Hungary
State Office for Cultural Heritage Baden-Wurttemberg	Associated partner	Germany



## ISTER OBJECTIVES

**Overall objective:** rediscover and revive the ancient network of roads and settlements developed by Romans along DR and design **eco-cultural routes** out of it leveraging on three key pillars:



Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA)

Fig. 1. ISTER overall objectives



# ISTER VISION

- To set the premises for a future eco-cultural corridor from along DR, Romania to Germany, and of course to Rome, **a slow motion road for pedestrian**, which would connect us to roots, traditions, culture and people;



Fig. 2. ISTER VISION

## Funding

ISTER project is co-funded by EU Interreg Danube Transnational Programme.

## Conflict of Interests Disclosure

The materials used are part of the ISTER project, there are no conflicts of interest.

## References

- <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/ister>
- <https://www.facebook.com/InterregISTER>