

PUBLIC REPORT

Regarding the implementation of PCE 2011-3-652 Project „*Die römische Grenze im Osten der Provinz Dakien*” in the period between October 2011 – November 2013

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The project’s implementation during the reported period consisted primarily on establishing the project’s infrastructure. With the help of our German Project Partners (<https://bscw.server.uni-frankfurt.de/bscw/bscw.cgi/2495037>) the new version of the BSCW *corporate work* platform was adopted, that ensures the communication of the work group using the server’s virtual space. Working in this manner, and in a group, highlighted the existence of several technical issues, such as the large dimensions of the information packs that needed to be stored or the low capacity of the digital communication networks that did not permit real time communication to take place. The difficulties related to the large dimensions of the data packs were overcome by using *open source/freeware* solutions, or those financed through publicity (such as skydrive.com, dropbox.com etc.). A risk factor for the project’s outcome, that was unsuspected when writing the grant proposal, consisted in the underdeveloped infrastructure of the Romanian national telecommunication networks that do not allow the on-line access of the data-bases, unless the user is located in a big city. Accessing these data-bases from less populated areas, from secluded or mountain areas is possible only with a low internet traffic speed, being sometimes even impossible. Thus there was no possibility to work in real time with the data-bases. To minimize these risks we decided in favour of using off-line solutions during field researches, updating the content every time we arrived back to Sf. Gheorghe.

A complementary element of the project’s infrastructure consists of the web “business card” (<http://www.limes.rdsweb.ro>) that allows everyone and anyone to get to know the project’s basic elements, such as the methods used or the main activities planned to be undertaken, arguments and expected results, as well as the work team members. The “News” section of the website constantly updates the reader with the most recent activities and latest findings.

One of the specific elements of the project’s infrastructure consists in the high technical equipment used that is very performant in comparison with other equipment found in Romania. This equipment is meant to contribute to achieving performant and outstanding project results and to ensure the project’s future developments. In years 2012 we were able to

acquire all the necessary equipment that was foreseen in the yearly budget. We have to mention here the agreement signed with TopGeocart Company from Bucharest (with an agency in Brasov) that successfully assures all the necessary support we need for using the geodesic measuring equipment (total station, GPS). This company made all possible efforts to ensure that within only one week after the geodesic equipment was delivered to the Museum the work team was able to use it according to our expectations! An opposite situation was faced in regard of the mobile x-ray spectrometer that was not only brought to the country much later than it should have been delivered to us but it cannot be used at its maximum potential. One of the main reasons for this situation consists in the fact that in Romania we were the first ones to buy such sophisticatedly configured equipment. Thus, the company that delivered it to us has no experience whatsoever in assuring the service and start-up of the equipment. The technological level of the Romanian companies thus represents another risk factor in our project, this time of economic nature. This risk might be overcome probably by buying high-tech equipment directly from the manufacturer or from vendors found in strongly industrialized countries with a well-set infrastructure.

The budget modifications that appeared in year 2013 restrained us from buying basic equipment needed to fulfil our objectives. The third component of the basic equipment necessary to be able to undertake the project's activities as planned was a magnetometer with 5 sensors. Under these circumstances, as the project manager, I have negotiated different solutions to substitute the suffered loss. I have tried different solutions to borrow similar equipment from abroad. These solutions made it possible to undertake the planned activities, but the pace was much slower as foreseen. We are confident that the budgetary reallocations, planned for year 2014, will allow us to revert to the initial financial planning, basing our belief on the promises made to us by the financing institution. Thus we will be able to buy all the basic components of our combined geochemical and geophysical investigation system.

During the reported period we were also able to accomplish some other planned activities, such as the investigations carried out in archives and libraries, and geo-archaeological field prospections, geophysical and geochemical measurements. While documenting all archaeological diggings and discoveries of our predecessors, we reviewed and reanalysed the materials from Boroşneu Mare and partially those from Comălău and Breţcu, which can be found today in the National Szeckler Museum.

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