

CULTURAL ROUTES IN HUNGARY – IRON AGE DANUBE ROUTE

Recent developments

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Hungarian Archaeology Vol. 12 (2023) Issue 4, pp. 61–62.

The Iron Age Danube Route was invited by the Directorate of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Hungarian Open Air Museum (Hungarian coordinator of the Cultural Routes Program of the Council of Europe) for a meeting on 20 November 2023, organised for the first time in Hungary. Eleven cultural routes crossing Hungary were present at the event. Besides, some members of institutions planning to join existing routes or apply for the Council of Europe Cultural Routes certificate with a new themed network also attended the meeting.

The participants were greeted via a video message by Stefano Dominioni, PhD (director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes), while Máté Vincze (deputy state secretary of public collections and cultural developments) and Eszter Csonka-Takács, PhD (director of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Hungarian Open Air Museum) spoke in person (*Fig. 1*). The meeting's organisers also announced that the city of Visegrád will host the 13th Cultural Routes Annual Expert Forum between the 25 and 27 September 2024.

Afterwards, nine Routes were introduced to the audience, explaining their operation, their sites in Hungary, the civil and professional networks behind them, and the challenges that arose. One of these was



*Fig. 1. Participants of the Cultural Routes Forum
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the Iron Age Danube Route (IADR), whose representatives referring to the intention to expand the network and plans. The representatives of IADRA emphasised the importance of the planned Forum and fully supported its preparation and organisation.

We will report on future updates concerning the Forum in the hope that we may meet in Visegrád in September this year.

Between 12 and 14 December 2023, Stefano Dominioni and his colleagues from Luxembourg visited the planned venues of the 13th Cultural Routes Annual Advisory Forum in Hungary.

They had the opportunity, among others, to meet the director of the event, discuss the programs planned for 2024, and listen to professional experts' advice.

The Iron Age Danube Association was represented at the meeting by Katalin Wollák (Archaeolingua Foundation), Szilvia Fábián PhD, Czifra Szabolcs, and Adrienn Pálinkás (Hungarian National Museum).

The intense three-day program included visiting the Visegrád, Budapest and Szentendre event sites. The Iron Age Danube Route representatives joined the Luxembourg delegation, colleagues of the Directorate of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Hungarian Open Air Museum, associates of the local Tourist Destination Management Office, and the mayor of Visegrád. The group visited the King Matthias Museum of the Hungarian National Museum and the Citadel of Visegrád (*Fig. 2*). The guests learned about the outstanding values of the location and the potential sites connected to the routes and their representatives in the form of guided tours.

One of the main topics was IADRA's contribution to the 13th Cultural Routes Annual Advisory Forum, especially welcoming new sites to the Route. The details require further discussion and preparation, which will be shared on the Iron Age Danube Route's website and social media platforms.



Fig. 2. Delegates from Luxembourg and Hungary on a visit in the Citadel of Visegrád