

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FAILURES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FORTRESS SARMIZEGETUSA REGIA, A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE MONUMENT

Abstract: Sarmizegetusa Regia was included, together with other five Dacian fortresses (Bănița, Costești-Blidaru, Costești-Cetățuie, Piatra Roșie and Căpâlna), on the List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1999. They are a unique synthesis of external cultural influences and local traditions in terms of building techniques and overall, in the ancient military architecture, representing the monumental expression of the civilisation of the Dacian Kingdom.

These fortresses are the accurate expression of the exceptional development level of the Dacian civilisation during the 1st century BC – early 2nd century AD, Sarmizegetusa Regia lying at the forefront of this fortified complex, epitomizing the evolution phenomenon from fortified centres to proto-urban agglomerations.

After 2000, various laws regulated the management, preservation and protection of the monuments listed among World Heritage Sites. Some of their provisions have never been applied or abided by. Unfortunately, currently, only Sarmizegetusa Regia has a legal administrator, the other five remaining un-administered.

There is no management plan for any of the six fortresses and they have no managers or administration plans. Except for Sarmizegetusa, there are not even short-term strategies for the other five fortresses that would solve urgent matters. They are not even protected 24/7. The single Dacian fortress within this fortified complex that benefits of security services 24/7 is Sarmizegetusa Regia, which is under the administration of the County Council of Hunedoara. Subsequent to these measures, the phenomenon of archaeological poaching and deliberate destruction disappeared entirely from the area of Sarmizegetusa Regia. Not the same may be said for the other fortresses, where destruction and vandalism actions and archaeological poaching are still often found. In most these fortresses, there are buildings in ruin and walls dislodged in several portions. Access roads to some of these Dacian fortresses are inadequate, while vegetation in these not administered sites conquered the monuments. The poor situation in these fortresses is due to the fact that nobody administers them.

The legal status of the land on which said monuments lie was not clarified to date either, and they remain not registered in land registers; the lands were not recorded in the cadastre; the owners of the right to administer the UNESCO remains were not established; the monuments and protection areas were not included in PUZ (regional Urban Plan) and PUG (General Urban Plan) type documentations of the administrative-territorial units within whose range respective monuments lie, there are no documentations for the draft of large feasibility studies for each fortress.

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At Sarmizegetusa Regia, things have changed for the better in the last 6 years, while discrepancies between this site and those which remained not administered are increasingly visible. The Administration of the historical monument Sarmizegetusa Regia was set up, constant security/surveillance, video surveillance were provided, a consulting Scientific Council was created and a regulation for visiting the site was drafted and implemented. Visiting routes were set up and explanatory panels with texts in Romanian and English for each monument set up, while at the pavilion by the entrance into the site may be purchased adequate informative materials. There were introduced audio guides in Romanian and English with much information on the monument and its history. The road that ran to Sarmizegetusa Regia was modernised and the County Council of Hunedoara funds the archaeological excavations. Survey measurements of the site were completed as did the documentation for the approval of intervention works (DALI). Furthermore, the issue of the sick trees on the sites' surface, which endangered visitors, employees as well as important parts of the monument, was partially solved. Because the efforts of the research team were also implemented a series of projects which facilitated the access of the heritage from Sarmizegetusa and the other Dacian fortresses on the List of World Heritage Sites. The efforts of the County Council of Hunedoara and the Site Administration made the site appear clean, constantly maintained, regardless the season, thus reaching some of the standards that UNESCO sites must comply.

Past all these positive things, there are aspects that still require remedy. Among, count the dislodgement of the constructional blocks and elements on certain portions of the fortification walls, the pentagonal tower or the poor state of the Roman baths. To these add the lack of management and administration plans, yet also the lack of drafting and submitting projects for accessing European funds designed for historical monuments.

There is obviously still much work to do, and one may not speak of perfect administration or a model of solid administration at Sarmizegetusa Regia. Nevertheless, we are confident that year by year, any dysfunctionality will disappear, the errors and failures will become increasingly few, despite the site complexity, while the gathered experience and efforts of those involved for the good of this monument will multiply.

Keywords: *World Heritage list, cultural heritage, sites, UNESCO, administration, Dacian fortresses of the Orăștie Mountains, Bănița, Costești-Blidaru, Costești-Cetățuie, Căpâlna, Piatra Roșie, Sarmizegetusa Regia.*

Research and documenting of historical sites represent vital and key tools for their proper understanding and protection. Despite numerous laws, conventions and guidelines regulating almost all aspects related to the sites' protection, their compliance and enforcement still falls short in the case of many, both nationally and internationally. The Dacian fortresses from the Orăștie Mountains, among world heritage sites, make no exception.

Recognition of the universal value of this fortified complex, formed of the fortresses of Bănița, Costești-Blidaru, Costești-Cetățuie, Căpâlna, Piatra Roșie and

Sarmizegetusa Regia, brings Romania both prestige and responsibilities. The latter involve among other adequate legal framework, ensuring optimal conditions for the management, protection, restoration, preservation and value enhancement of these unique sites which belong to the universal heritage¹.

The six fortresses are in Romania and were listed as world heritage sites on December 2, 1999, by decision CONF209VIII.C.1². They are listed as cultural sites under identification number 906³. Their listing was justified by criteria II, III and IV⁴. Criterion (II): the Dacian fortresses exhibit a fusion of techniques and concepts of military architecture creating a unique style. Criterion (III): The Geto-Dacian Kingdom of the 1st millennium BC reached an exceptional socio-economic and cultural level symbolized by this group of fortresses. Criterion (IV): the fortified hilltop and its more evolved successor, the *oppidum*, were specific to the late Iron Age in Europe, and the Dacian fortresses are exceptional examples of such fortification types.

This study, without being exhaustive, wishes to radiograph the manner in which were applied the protection and value enhancement standards of the site at Sarmizegetusa Regia⁵, together with other five Dacian fortresses (Bănița, Costești-Blidaru, Costești-Cetățuie, Piatra Roșie, Căpâlna), on the List of world heritage sites as of 1999⁶. Also, we shall reference the legal framework and a series of aspects of the other five's situation⁷.

INTRODUCTION

Sarmizegetusa Regia⁸ (Pl. 3), capital of the Dacian Kingdom, beside the fortresses of Bănița (Pl. 5/1), Costești-

¹ Romania counts among the 193 signatory states of the 1990 *Convention on the protection of World Heritage Cultural and Natural Sites*, passed by UNESCO on November 16, 1972 at Paris. This Convention is one of the most powerful and specific international tools established by UNESCO, designed to create a coherent and adhesive world programme for the identification, protection and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of special universal value. The most important and visible effect is undoubtedly the List of World Heritage Sites, drafted in 1978. It is a key tool for the protection and preservation of the universal heritage. If in 1978 it included 12 sites, today it sums up 1121 sites. Among, 869 are cultural, 213 natural and 39 mixed (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/2630>). In the recent 40 years, the popularity of this Convention has constantly increased being successfully implemented worldwide, which contributed to the protection and preservation of the exceptional universal heritage (ALBERT/RINGBECK, 2015).

² <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/165/>

³ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/906/documents/>

⁴ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/2630/>; The description mentions: Built in the 1st centuries B.C. and A.D. under Dacian rule, these fortresses show an unusual fusion of military and religious architectural techniques and concepts from the classical world and the late European Iron Age. The six defensive works, the nucleus of the Dacian Kingdom, were conquered by the Romans at the beginning of the 2nd century A.D.; their extensive and well-preserved remains stand in spectacular natural surroundings and give a dramatic picture of a vigorous and innovative civilization (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/906/>).

⁵ The UNESCO List, Sarmizegetusa Regia (Orăștioara de Sus commune, Grădiștea de Munte village, Hunedoara county) is identified by code 906-001, coordinates N 45 37 23. 00; E 23 18 43.00. On the List of Historical Sites (L.M.I) of Romania its code is HD-I-s-A-03190.

⁶ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/906>

⁷ Above aspects are based mainly on work visits on site over several years, as well the awareness of the situation prior their inclusion on the UNESCO List, and the information supplied by the colleagues involved, to a larger or smaller extent in activities related to the archaeological research of this site.

⁸ For the history of research at Sarmizegetusa Regia to World War I see PEȚAN 2018a.

Blidaru (Pl. 4/2), Costești-Cetățuie (Pl. 4/1), Piatra Roșie (Pl. 4/3) and Căpâlna⁹ (Pl. 5/2) count, as previously mentioned¹⁰, among the best known ancient sites from Romania. These fortresses, together with other from the area, are a unique synthesis of external cultural influences and local tradition in terms of building techniques, generally of ancient military architecture, being the monumental expression of the Dacian Kingdom civilisation. The six fortresses, alike other from within or outside this area, lay on high relief, in barely accessible locations. Land peculiarities were enhanced so they would benefit of excellent natural defence, some raised on high rocks, with almost vertical rises¹¹. They delimit an area of ca. 150 km² which, for almost two centuries, was the most extensively inhabited area from Dacia¹² (Pl. 1).

These fortresses date to the 1st c. BC – early 2nd c. AD and form a complex generically known as the *Dacian fortresses of the Orăștie Mountains*, although those at Bănița and Căpâlna¹³ lay somewhat farther than the other four located in the mountain area south Orăștie¹⁴. Geographically, they lay in the Șureanu Mountains (Sebeș)¹⁵, a group of Șureanu-Parâng-Lotruului Mountains in the Southern Carpathians Mountain Chain. All six fortresses forming a unitary fortifications system lay within this mountain area (Cf. Pl. 1).

The Grădiștei Hill, where the ruins of Sarmizegetusa Regia lay, is located by the south-eastern edge of Lunca Grădiștii, at approximately 17 km south Costești village and 7 km the central area of Grădiștea de Munte village, behind the interflow of Valea Albă and Valea Godeanului streams and is a foot of Muncel¹⁶ (Pl. 2/1; 3/1).

⁹ For the history of research of these fortifications see DAICOVICIU/FERENCZI/GLODARIU 1989, 121-173; GHEORGHIU 2005, 17-23, with complete bibliography; MATEESCU 2017, 357-362.

¹⁰ BĂRCĂ 2019, 110.

¹¹ For military architecture see GLODARIU 1983; DAICOVICIU/FERENCZI/GLODARIU 1989, 69 sqq.; MATEESCU/PUPEZĂ 2016, 221-249.

¹² MATEESCU/PUPEZĂ 2016, 221.

¹³ The Dacian fortresses of Bănița (Hunedoara county) and Căpâlna (Alba county) are somewhat peripheral within the system of Dacian fortifications in the Orăștie Mountains. The first lies by the western limit of the Jiu valley, in the southern part of Șureanu Mountains, and the second in the north-eastern area. The fortress at Bănița was designed to provide defence from the south of the access to Sarmizegetusa Regia (GHEORGHIU 2005, 26), while that at Căpâlna controlled Sebeș valley and defended the outlet from the Intra-Carpathian area of the road running from south of the Carpathians, passed by the Dacian fortresses at Polovragi, and that coming from east, from the Dacian fortress at Tilișca (for the fortress of Tilișca see LUPU 1989). The fortress at Căpâlna made easy connection with the Dacian fortress of Cugur too lying westwards (Cf. GLODARIU/MOGA 1989, 126-130).

¹⁴ Nonetheless, the title of *Dacian fortresses of Orăștie Mountains* may be also used for the fortifications with stone walls of Bănița and Căpâlna, and for other few, precisely because they belong to this fortification system from Orăștie Mountains (Cf. DAICOVICIU/FERENCZI/GLODARIU 1989, 69 sqq.), set up around Sarmizegetusa.

¹⁵ Șureanu Mountains (Sebeș) are delimited to the north by Valea Mureșului, to the east by Cindrel Mountains, to the south by the Petroșani Depression and to the west by Hațeg Depression. Westwards, they extend much under the name of Lunca Platform (see to this effect GEOGRAFIA ROMÂNIEI 1987, 303-306; DAICOVICIU/FERENCZI/GLODARIU 1989, 21 sqq.; GHEORGHIU 2005, 12-13). These mountains form an ensemble of surfaces with heights between 950-1000 m and slightly over 2000 m, without being divided by marked dislevelments (DAICOVICIU/FERENCZI/GLODARIU 1989, 21-23).

¹⁶ DAICOVICIU/FERENCZI/GLODARIU 1989, 193-195; GHEORGHIU 2005, 62.

Sarmizegetusa Regia, the main political, religious, economic and military centre of the Dacian world for a century and a half is the largest settlement known for the Dacian area. It is composed of three distinct parts: *the fortress, sacred area and the "quarters" with civil constructions*, the latter lying both east and west the first two which occupied the middle of the settlement¹⁷. All civil, military and cult constructions are placed on man-made terraces, those in the sacred area being supported and protected by strong walls built in the *murus Dacicus* technique, of Hellenistic influence. Some of these supporting walls reached in Antiquity a height up to 12m¹⁸ on certain stretches. The largest terraces reached surfaces of thousands of square meters / almost half a hectare, with the largest being 150 m long and ca. 80 m wide. For their set up, hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of earth and rock were excavated, levelled and reinforced¹⁹.

The fortress was built in the single place of the area which had the appropriate configuration, namely around the hillock with a maximum height of 1042 m, dominating both the western "quarters" of the capital as well as the sacred area, which lay at ca. 1000 m²⁰ elevation (Pl. 3). Fortress walls, made in the *murus Dacicus* technique, surrounded the hillock on the land configuration²¹.

After the 101-102 war, the Dacians were forced, according to the peace terms effected by the Romans, to dismantle part of the fortress enclosure wall. The Dacians rebuilt it around the second Daco-Roman war, after the Roman units left. The Dacian fortress, with an estimate surface of ca. 10.000 m², was almost entirely affected by the destruction and large-scale arrangements of the land during the wars and in the period just after their end²².

Today's fortification (Pl. 11/1-3, 6) was built by the Romans by early 2nd century AD, after the conquest of Dacia. Its walls, made especially of limestone blocks, enclose a surface of ca. 30.000 m². On certain wall stretches were included andesite architectural pieces originating in the religious buildings from the sacred area²³.

The civil constructions of Sarmizegetusa Regia consisted of houses, barns and storage facilities, numerous workshops, drainage channels, water pipes, paved roads, stairs²⁴ etc. Houses were rectangular (two or three-roomed), polygonal or circular. On the terraces from the civil "quarters" there were usually a house and an appendix, the latter usually a barn made entirely of wood²⁵.

On the current wall route, at 38 m from the southern gate towards that western, below the wall, was discovered a Roman date blacksmiths' workshop, built after the land was levelled, and beneath it, a Dacian mint burnt in AD 106²⁶.

¹⁷ GHEORGHIU 2005, 62.

¹⁸ Cf. MATEESCU 2016, 195.

¹⁹ GHEORGHIU 2005, 63.

²⁰ On terrace X, the height is of 998 m, and on terrace IX of 1000 m. amicable information dr. Răzvan Mateescu.

²¹ GHEORGHIU 2005, 63.

²² Today, only a small part is visible, it also adjusted and changed by the Romans after they set up at Sarmizegetusa Regia.

²³ In various points within and just nearby them, were discovered the prints of barracks and Roman structures, like the baths.

²⁴ GHEORGHIU 2005, 64, 136, 137; DAICOVICIU *et alii* 1961, 309-310; GLODARIU 1983; SUCIU 2000, 36-47; BODÓ 2016, 165-181.

²⁵ GHEORGHIU 2005, 64.

²⁶ GLODARIU/IAROSLAVSCHI/RUSU 1992, 57-68.

Beside the four coin stamps with which was minted coinage copying the Roman *denarii* (a Republican denarius of 126 BC, a Republican *denarius* minted in 86 BC and a denarius issued by emperor Tiberius), within the workshop was also discovered iron and bronze slag, and also a lead piece, likely indicative of the manufacture of other objects as well.

The civil settlement and sacred area were provided with drinking water catchment and supply installations by fired clay pipes²⁷, but also with rainfall water drainage systems. Of the latter are still visible the stone drainage channels from the sacred area (Pl. 12/3, 6). A wooden cistern, supplied still by fired clay pipe was discovered to the south of the fortress walls²⁸.

Religious architecture counts among the peculiarities of Dacian inhabitancy of the Orăștie Mountains, while the buildings from Sarmizegetusa Regia are the peaking point of the Dacian religious architecture²⁹.

The temples of Sarmizegetusa lay on two manmade terraces (terraces X and XI), supported by walls of massive limestone blocks with occasional height of even 12 m. They are situated to the east of the fortress and form an impressive sacred enclosure, where, at some point, functioned in parallel seven temples (Pl. 3/2; 6/1-4; 12/2, 4) and the andesite altar³⁰ (Pl. 6/5). Together with the temples, there were identified water supply and discharge systems (the stone spillway on terrace XI and terracotta tube pipes) (Pl. 6/6). The surviving elements in the sacred area (plinths, drums, the limestone or andesite pilasters in the temples' structure etc.), but also in the wall of the fortification built by the Romans, record a grand religious architecture. The connection between the sacred area and the fortification was made by a limestone slabs' paved road (Pl. 11/5; 12/3).

Should we agree that the fortifications system from Șureanu Mountains was built to protect and control access to Sarmizegetusa Regia, it inevitably represents a placement, as well noted, of an organization design of centre-periphery type³¹. Justly, it is believed that Mureș Valley is the agricultural basin which made possible the erection of the fortifications in the Șureanu Mountains and the implementation of amassments around Sarmizegetusa Regia³². Among arguments count as follows: **1.** Identification at Măgura Călanului (Sântămărie Orlea commune) and Deva-Bejan quarry of the raw material sources of limestone and respectively andesite used in the buildings from Șureanu Mountains; **2.** The need to control territories from Mureș Valley which ensured an important part of grains and other farming products necessary and by which passed the flow of import goods³³.

Last but not least, the highly developed iron metallurgy in this period with the Dacians, especially noted

²⁷ Cf. GHEORGHIU/PUPEZĂ 2016, 183-191.

²⁸ GHEORGHIU 1996, 375-384; GHEORGHIU 2005, 64. See also GHEORGHIU 1998, 177-189.

²⁹ MATEESCU 2016, 193.

³⁰ For the temples at Sarmizegetusa Regia and the rest of Dacia see ANTONESCU 1984; CRIȘAN 1986; CRIȘAN 1993; GLODARIU/IAROSLAVSCHI/RUSU 1988; RUSU-PESCARU 2005; FLOREA 2011; MATEESCU 2012; GHEORGHIU 2005, 202-208; MATEESCU 2016, 193-220.

³¹ FLOREA 2011, 161.

³² FLOREA 2011, 163.

³³ FLOREA 2011, 163.

in the capital area, where numerous smitheries were found³⁴, and the iron quantity identified in tools³⁵ and iron blooms only at Sarmizegetusa Regia exceeds the quantity found in the rest of Europe from outside the Roman empire³⁶.

The finds show that in the capital area a true ferrous metallurgy industry developed, the numerous workshops supplied with iron mined in the area producing enough to satisfy the increased demand of the local settlements, but also for supplying those in farther areas³⁷.

A special place was occupied by stone quarrying and use³⁸, especially if we consider the impressive military and religious buildings from Sarmizegetusa Regia, yet also the other five fortresses that form this fortified complex. Various rock types were used for their construction, some (limestone and andesite) quarried at considerable distances, others from the building areas (mica schist especially)³⁹.

To these adds glass working⁴⁰, woodwork⁴¹, precious metals working⁴² (Pl. 8/1-2) and pottery⁴³. A special class of Dacian pottery mainly identified in the fortresses and settlements from Orăștie Mountains is painted pottery (Pl. 8/4-5). It was made under the influence from the Mediterranean world, namely engobe painting, of Hellenistic origin, with geometric patterns⁴⁴. In the 1st c. AD emerges the figurative style specific to the pottery centre from Orăștie Mountains, which was novel for the making of painted pottery and late Dacian art, an innovation in decoration born in a workshop from Sarmizegetusa Regia's milieu⁴⁵. Only at Sarmizegetusa Regia emerges also a painting genre inspired by the surrounding nature and local mythological background⁴⁶.

Last but not least, at Sarmizegetusa Regia were discovered over time thousands of items. Beside those already mentioned (some of smithery and woodwork), we mention here jewellery tools, farming tools, domestic

³⁴ GLODARIU 1975, 107-134; GLODARIU/IAROSLAVSCHI 1979, 22, 39; IAROSLAVSCHI 1997, 11-25, 48-95; IAROSLAVSCHI 2004, 58-59; GHEORGHIU 2005, 147-151; IAROSLAVSCHI/MATEESCU 2016, 63-66.

³⁵ For the numerous artifact classes made in iron see GLODARIU/IAROSLAVSCHI 1979, 43-123.

³⁶ GLODARIU/IAROSLAVSCHI 1979, 150.

³⁷ GLODARIU/IAROSLAVSCHI 1979, 59; IAROSLAVSCHI/MATEESCU 2016, 63-66.

³⁸ Cf. IAROSLAVSCHI 1997, 26-42; GHEORGHIU 2005, 172-174.

³⁹ GLODARIU 1983, 98.

⁴⁰ Cf. IAROSLAVSCHI 1997, 96-102; IAROSLAVSCHI 1981, 166-173; GHEORGHIU 2005, 174-175.

⁴¹ Wood was used for houses, appendices, cisterns and furniture. It was also used in sacred architecture (the temples supra-structure), and military (palisades, cross girders connecting the two worked stone wall faces etc.). In the Șureanu Mountains area, at Sarmizegetusa Regia and Muchia Chișetoarei, part of the wood structure of the cisterns survived – larch, respectively durmast (Cf. IAROSLAVSCHI 1997, 102-108; GHEORGHIU 2005, 151-154; IAROSLAVSCHI/MATEESCU 2016, 66-68).

⁴² The bronze and precious metal workshops functioned at Ardeu, Bănița, Căpâlna, Costești-Cetățuie, Piatra Craivii, Piatra Roșie but also at Sarmizegetusa Regia, as proven by archaeological finds (Cf. BODÓ/FERENCZ 2004, 154; RUSTOIU 1996, 58; GLODARIU/MOGA 1989, 98-99, 103, 115; FLOREA 1992, 39-47; MOGA 1979, 513-518; MOGA/ RUSTOIU 1997, 57-63; DAICOVICIU 1954, 78, 81, Pl. XIV/6-7; DAICOVICIU *et alii* 1955, 208-209; GHEORGHIU 2005, 155. See also IAROSLAVSCHI/MATEESCU 2016, 68-69; FLOREA *et alii* 2015; MATEESCU 2010, 128-140.

⁴³ GHEORGHIU 2005, 138-146, with complete bibliography; FLOREA/CRISTESCU 2016, 142-145.

⁴⁴ FLOREA 1998, 233; FLOREA/CRISTESCU 2016, 143-145.

⁴⁵ FLOREA 1998, 236-237.

⁴⁶ FLOREA 1998, 237.

objects, weapons, decorative items (Pl. 7; 8/3; 9), much pottery, jewellery and dress pieces, coins etc⁴⁷.

All the above furthermore emphasize that the fortification system of Şureanu Mountains is the concrete expression of the exceptional development level of the Dacian civilisation of the 1st c. BC – early 2nd c. AD, with Sarmizegetusa Regia its point, an example of the evolution phenomenon from fortified centres to proto-urban amassments (*oppida*), specific to the end of the Iron age in Europe⁴⁸. The archaeological finds, site scale, LIDAR scanning results and survey measurements, as well as the presence of several principles of classical urbanism indicate that Sarmizegetusa Regia was an urban settlement.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND A SERIES OF ASPECTS OF THE SIX FORTRESSES SITUATION⁴⁹

Currently, the fortresses of Sarmizegetusa Regia, Bănița, Costești-Blidaru, Costești-Cetățuie, Piatra Roșie, Căpâlna are deemed historical sites in the class of archaeological sites of national and universal importance framed in class A, being included on the UNESCO heritage list.

As of 1990 Romania counts among the 193 states that signed the *Convention for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, passed by UNESCO in 1972. Nevertheless, its effective enforcement occurred only in 2000, when Government Ordinance 47/2000 on the establishment of protection measures of historical sites on the list of world heritage sites. It was approved with amendments by Law 564/2001.

Unfortunately, as recently shown⁵⁰, many of the provisions of this law are not enforced or applied by the central or by the local authorities.

In 2004 was approved the Government Resolution 493/2004 regulating both the monitoring of the historical sites among world heritage sites (appendix 1), and the methodology for the draft and framework of their protection and management plans (appendix 2). It stipulates, among other, that the sites' preservation state must be monitored twice a year. Unfortunately, to date, there are no management plans for the six fortresses that form this fortified complex on the World Heritage List⁵¹. To this lack, also adds the lack of site managers and management plans according to article 6 in the Government Ordinance 47/2000 and Law 564/2001 and Government Resolution 1268 of 2010, with further amendments and completions⁵². For the fortresses at Bănița, Costești-Blidaru, Costești-Cetățuie, Piatra Roșie, Căpâlna, there are no yearly protection and management plans and no short term strategy to solve emergency issues.

The lack of the necessary documentation for the management of these fortresses, of site managers, adequate

specialty staff, clear delimiting of responsibilities and status of these sites, as well as of the management plans are only a few of the multiple issues hindering their adequate administration.

In 2010, the Government Resolution 1268 (updated by Government Resolution 1102 of 2011⁵³), approved the *Protection and management plan of the historical sites on the list of world heritage sites*⁵⁴. It provisioned the establishment of UNESCO Organization Committees⁵⁵, the issue of yearly plans for each site based on the Framework Programme and the appointment of site coordinators, tasked with the plans' implementation. Unfortunately, the Programme above expired in 2016⁵⁶, while the draft and approval of another project for a new protection programme was not regulated to this date⁵⁷.

In 2012, Resolution 64/2012 of the Alba County Council established the UNESCO Organization Committee for the Dacian fortress of Căpâlna, coordinated by dr. Constantin Inel, Deputy Director of the National Museum of the Union of Alba Iulia⁵⁸. Two years later, Hunedoara County Council set up by Resolution 83 the UNESCO Organization Committees⁵⁹ for the Dacian fortresses of Bănița, Costești-Blidaru, Costești-Cetățuie, Piatra Roșie and Sarmizegetusa Regia, all coordinated by dr. Cătălin Cristescu⁶⁰, fellow researcher with the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation of Deva and member in the archaeological research team of Sarmizegetusa Regia.

As of August 2016, dr. Cătălin Cristescu is no longer the coordinator of such committee, and as of 2018, the Dacian fortress of Căpâlna⁶¹ remained without coordinator as well. This state of facts evidences, as mentioned recently⁶² the non-compliance with the provisions of Government

⁵³ This Government Resolution was passed on November 2, 2011 and enforced on November 14, 2011, once with its publication in the Official Gazette.

⁵⁴ Meanwhile, mentioned Programme, drafted for a period of 5 years has expired (under Law 564/2001, Art. 6, 2).

⁵⁵ The UNESCO Organization Committee is composed of the following: a representative of the Ministry of Culture, one of the County Culture Directorate, one of the County Council, one of the structure specialized with the Romanian Police, one of the local community and the site's coordinator, appointed by the County Council (under article 10, 1 of Government Resolution 1268/2010).

⁵⁶ BĂRCĂ 2018, 81; BĂRCĂ 2019, 111.

⁵⁷ Under Law 564/2001, Art. 6, 2, *the protection and management programme of the historical sites on the list of world heritage sites is drafted for a 5-year period by the Ministry of Culture and Cults, approve by the National Commission of Historical Monuments and Government Resolution.*

⁵⁸ In 2013 for the fortress of Căpâlna was submitted a research, restoration and valuation project approved by the Ministry of Culture, yet never implemented owing to the uncertain legal regime. Interestingly, the project was not discussed by the Organization Committees as it should have.

⁵⁹ Under Government Resolution 1268/2010 (article 10, 2), such UNESCO Committees must: 1. Draft a maintenance strategy of the sites and prevent any possible threat factors of their integrity; 2. Draft the protection, preservation, maintenance as well as rehabilitation, promotion and valuation plans of the site; 3. Periodically report the preservation state of the sites, of general and specific issues note subsequent to monitoring checks; 4. Set up of public debates for emphasizing the importance of preserving in good condition the site and the taken measures for improving its preservation state, promotion and valuation.

⁶⁰ I would like to thank this way too the colleague and friend dr. Cătălin Cristescu for being so kind to inform me about the key issues of the Dacian fortresses from Orăștiei Mountains.

⁶¹ BĂRCĂ 2018, 82; BĂRCĂ 2019, 111.

⁶² BĂRCĂ 2018, 82; BĂRCĂ 2019, 111.

⁴⁷ Cf. GHEORGHIU 2005; NEAMȚU/FLOREA/GHEORGHIU/BODÓ 2016.

⁴⁸ See to this effect FLOREA 2011.

⁴⁹ For additional information and discussions on these aspects see BĂRCĂ 2018; BĂRCĂ 2019; PEȚAN 2018; CIUȚĂ 2018.

⁵⁰ Cf. BĂRCĂ 2018, 78-97; BĂRCĂ 2019, 108-119; see also PEȚAN 2018.

⁵¹ Of the six cultural sites of Romania on the list of world heritage sites, a management plan has only the Horezu Monastery (2013-2019). See to this effect <https://patrimoniul.ro/images/rapoarte-unesco-2015/Plan-de-management-Manastirea-Horezu1-08-2013.pdf>

⁵² BĂRCĂ 2018 81; BĂRCĂ 2019, 111.

Resolution 1268/2010, where Article 11, b provisions that the members of the UNESCO Organization Committees carry out periodical monitoring checks on the maintenance works of the site at least twice a year.

Unfortunately, the two site coordinators had insufficient legal rights to act and really run their management. Even more, a series of priorities and requests submitted to the central and local authorities that would have improved the activity of the Committees were ignored, remaining unresolved⁶³.

The management plans of the six Dacian fortresses were not drafted to date, and the expiry of above Programme makes the Committees (left without coordinators) operate illegally⁶⁴. To this adds the lack of administration plans and inexistent (except for Sarmizegetusa Regia, the single site who has a legal administrator) minimal short term strategy to solve emergency issues.

One of the still unresolved issues by the Romanian authorities is the permanent security of the sites, as constantly asked by the scientific responsible of the Dacian fortresses from Orăștie Mountains, and also the coordinator of the Organization Committee from the Hunedoara county. These requests were sent including to the President of Romania, prime-Minister, Minister of Culture, Permanent Commission from the Romanian Parliament for UNESCO, but also the Prefecture of Hunedoara County⁶⁵. Currently, the single Dacian fortress from Orăștie Mountains which benefits of surveillance and security services 24/24 is Sarmizegetusa Regia, under the administration of the Hunedoara County Council⁶⁶, which explains the positive advances in its management, where archaeological poaching and deliberate destruction disappeared completely. Not the same is valid for the other fortresses, where deliberate destruction and archaeological poaching are found quite often, including the settlement at Fețele Albe, nearby the capital of the Dacian kingdom⁶⁷. In the autumn of 2018, its perimeter started a strong fire which damaged most part

⁶³ BĂRCĂ 2018, 82; BĂRCĂ 2019, 111.

⁶⁴ The lack of coordinators and Committees is due to the ignorance, content and disinterest of the Ministry of Culture and the Government of Romania who should have issues from November 2016 another Government resolution for said Programmes.

⁶⁵ BĂRCĂ 2018, 83; BĂRCĂ 2019, 111.

⁶⁶ Sarmizegetusa Regia passed under the administration of the Hunedoara County Council by Government Resolution 1237/2012, issued in the Official Gazette 876 of December 21, 2012. For permanent surveillance/security of the area and end of the archaeological poaching and vandalism actions, the County Council employed the services of a specialized company.

⁶⁷ Cf. BĂRCĂ 2018, 84-85; BĂRCĂ 2018, 82; BĂRCĂ 2019, 113; PETĂN 2018; CIUTĂ 2018.

See also https://adevarul.ro/locale/hunedoara/video-traficantii-comori-s-au-intors-cetatile-dacilor-ultimul-atac-lungul-sir-actelor-braconaj-arheologic-1_55f660f5eaafab2cbc9af8/index.html

http://stiri.tvr.ro/cetatea-dacica-costesti-din-muntii-orastiei-a-fost-vandalizata_65334.html#view

<https://gddhd.ro/breaking-news/vandalismul-din-cetatile-dacice-e-de-fapt-braconaj-arheologic-patru-cetateni-cehi-cercetati-pentru-furt-de-bunuri-de-patrimoniu-din-cetatile-din-muntii-orastiei/>

<http://proalba.ro/doi-braconieri-de-comori-prinsi-in-flagrant-la-cetatea-dacica-din-capalna-au-folosit-detectoare-de-metale-in-siturile-arheologice>

https://adevarul.ro/locale/hunedoara/cetate-dacica-vandalizata-sfantul-gyurcan-profanatorul-ofera-1000-euro-recompensa-gasirea-lui-1_56997fcc37115986c689139c/index.html

<https://glasul-hd.ro/cetatile-dacice-de-la-costesti-si-blidarau-au-fost-vandalizate/>

of the walls and limestone constructions. It was started by the candles lit by a group of spiritual preoccupations who practice connection rituals with the energy of these sacred ancient places⁶⁸. Recently, near the temple outside the *vallum* at Costești-Cetățuie, such a group excavated 12 holes set in a circle in which they placed stones, fire traces being also found⁶⁹. In the fortress of Căpâlna were recorded vandalism acts and archaeological poaching by metal detectors this year too⁷⁰. Such acts are a major issue for the five un-administered sites, as they negatively impact their preservation.

Although aspects related to the security of the historical sites here are provisioned by a series of articles from Government Ordinance 47/2000, Law 564/2001 and Government resolution 1268/2010⁷¹, no such measures were taken. The law text bounds the central and local authorities to ensure the security of these universal value archaeological sites. This indicates that at the level of central authorities there is neither sufficient will to enforce the existing law nor to draft and amend any law⁷² allowing their security and protection 24/24.

In all these un-administered fortresses, there are constructions in ruin and walls dislodged on several stretches. Yearly, their appearance is increasingly uncared and their decay gradually marked⁷³.

Access routes to some are not corresponding, even difficult. Facilities for visitors are missing almost completely in all fortresses, and information panels by their entrance, made decades ago, are in some case almost illegible. In the Bănița fortress, such a panel is entirely missing. The UNESCO panel from the five un-administered is rusted, and visiting regulations are either missing or indecipherable. The lack of touristic flow control, security and visiting regulations negatively impact these sites, which suffer increasingly frequent from the inadequate behaviour of tourists.

Also, there are no explanation panels for the objectives inside their perimeter. In the places where some of these fortresses lay, there are no centres or information kiosks, while their valuation and promotion are entirely out of question. So, there is nothing more than road signs signalling their presence and presentation panels, most often precarious. There are no education and information panels for visitors.

⁶⁸ <http://www.replicahd.ro/arde-in-situl-fetele-albe-lumanarile-puse-de-credinciosi-daci-risca-sa-faca-scrum/?fbclid=IwAR0SjgWP6KKIFBheLTsZXQnidp6YiszVVyAVXl6upwDJUbRpPXdZ2tGnWtI>
https://adevarul.ro/locale/hunedoara/cetatile-dacice-jurul-sarmizegetusei-regia-fost-lasate-prada-profanatorilor-1_541fc40a0d133766a8545b6c/index.html

⁶⁹ http://www.replicahd.ro/un-nou-templu-in-cetatea-dacica-costesti/?fbclid=IwAR2bTWHtZETHJnLK8C3KxpnLthiWVrNrwnA8DKCYJ8NT_vVY248Zjg8R8Q

⁷⁰ We thank this way too our colleague dr. Marius Ciută for kindly providing such information and many other data on the situation of this site.

⁷¹ For further details and views see BĂRCĂ 2018, 83-84; BĂRCĂ 2019, 112-113; PETĂN 2018, 118, 122, 124, 127-129.

⁷² The security of these historical sites by the subunits of Gendarmerie is not possible, as they are not on the list of objectives with payment exception given by the Government Resolution 1486/2005, regulating the security and protection of objectives, goods and values by Gendarmerie units. Also, it is invoked these sites do not meet a series of terms for permanent security. An assessment made to this effect led to request and requirements which are impossible to put in practice in a site on the List of World heritage sites.

⁷³ For additional information see BĂRCĂ 2018; BĂRCĂ 2019; CIUTĂ 2018.

Vegetation in these sites covers the monuments, and significant walls and contraction surfaces are covered by layers of moss, lichen and bryophytes. The presence of these microorganisms is a negative factor impacting the decay of the stone structures in these fortresses. Their location is a mountain area lets them exposed to bad weather, excessive humidity⁷⁴, low temperatures⁷⁵, heavy rainfall⁷⁶, landslides, storms⁷⁷, all with multiple negative effects which contribute to their quick deterioration. All these are natural negative factors affecting the preservation state of the monuments.

As regards preservation, restoration and valuation activities of these monuments, they were not carried out in the last two decades in either of the fortresses without administrator. In the fortresses of Bănița, Piatra Roșie and Căpâlna, although excavated and partly investigated several decades ago, they never benefited of preservation and restoration works. In the fortresses of Costești-Cetățuie and Costești-Blidariu, the last and single preservation and restoration works were carried out by early 80'ies of the 20th century. In the fortress of Căpâlna, in 2013, a research, restoration and valuation project was submitted. It was approved by the Ministry of Culture yet not applied owing to the uncertain legal status⁷⁸.

In terms of archaeological research, except for the Costești-Cetățuie fortress, investigated in 2017-2018, no archaeological excavations are conducted in the other fortresses for many years. At Costești-Blidariu, archaeologically investigated over time many times⁷⁹, the last research, yet outside its walls, were carried out in 2007-2011, aimed at investigating the towers in points La Vămi, Poiana lui Mișu and Platoul Faeragului lying westwards and north-westwards the fortresses⁸⁰. Bănița was systematically excavated in 1960-1961, while Piatra Roșie, after a cessation of half a century⁸¹, in 2004⁸², the two fortresses were archeologically investigated. The fortress of Căpâlna was systematically excavated in 1939, 1942, 1954, 1965-1967 and 1982-1983. In 1996, one of the terraces by the base of hillock onto which lies the fortification was excavated because of suspicions of archaeological poaching that would

have discovered an iron tools deposit⁸³. The lack of research, preservation and restoration activities in the case of these fortresses is a negative factor that must be remedied, together with the other existing issues by the authorities that would administer them.

These fortresses are in a poor state because they are left un-administered⁸⁴, although the Hunedoara County Council requested repeatedly to relevant central authorities to transfer the administration right of the other Dacian fortresses from the county of Hunedoara⁸⁵ to them, being refused all the time. Requests for specific action for the transfer of the administration right of the Dacian fortresses on the List of World Heritage sites to the said Council were submitted until 2016 also by dr. Cătălin Cristescu, coordinator of the UNESCO Organization Committee of the sites at Bănița, Costești-Blidaru, Costești-Cetățuie, Piatra Roșie and Sarmizegetusa Regia⁸⁶. Despite the successful transfer in the case of Sarmizegetusei Regia⁸⁷, the Ministry of Culture and National Identity wished not to take necessary action to make the transfer possible for the remaining fortresses in this fortified complex⁸⁸.

Furthermore, a series of major issues were not resolved, like for instance: clarifying the legal regime of all land plots on which lay the sites and their record; the cadastre of the land; establishment of the owners of the administration right of remains on the list of World Sites; the inclusion of the sites and protection areas in PUZ types documentations (Zone Urban Plan) and PUG (General Urban Plan)⁸⁹ of the administrative-territorial units within the range of which lay respective sites and documentations for the preparation of large scale feasibility studies for each fortress⁹⁰. The lack of urban regulations led to the emergence of new constructions (residential and holiday houses) nearby the fortresses at Costești-Cetățuie and Căpâlna.

⁸³ Cf. CIUTĂ 2018, 155.

⁸⁴ See to this effect BĂRCĂ 2018; BĂRCĂ 2019; PEȚAN 2018, 115 sqq.; CIUTĂ 2018.

⁸⁵ BĂRCĂ 2018, 85; BĂRCĂ 2019, 112-113. For more recent requests see also <http://hunedoaralibera.ro/oficial-cj-hunedoara-solicita-cetatile-dacice-din-muntii-orastiei/>

<https://gddhd.ro/actualitate/cetatile-dacice-cerute-din-nou-in-administrare/>

⁸⁶ Information dr. Cătălin Cristescu.

⁸⁷ Special positive effects of the takeover under the administration of Hunedoara County Council of the 18.3 ha area on which lay the main remains of Sarmizegetusa Regia were also noted by the representatives of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Institute within the UNESCO Organization Committees.

⁸⁸ A first step must be made by the Ministry of Culture which must take all necessary actions so that these sites be inscribed in the centralised inventory of public property assets of the state, as in the case of Sarmizegetusa Regia, which is mandatory term so that these fortresses acquire an administrator. This was not complete to date although Law 213 of November 17, 1998 on public property and its legal regime clearly states in Appendix 1. I, no. 27 that historical ensembles and sites are part of the public domain of the state. The following step is to designate the Ministry of Culture as administrator by Government Resolution, to transfer the administration right to county authorities.

⁸⁹ In February 2019, the members of the joint commissions budget-finances of the Romanian Parliament adopted an amendment to the budget project of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, by which would be allotted with priority the necessary amount to draft a Zone Urban Plan for the Dacian fortresses in the Orăștiei Mountains. The amendment was proposed by the UNESCO Commission with the Parliament, by chairman Ionel Palăr.

⁹⁰ BĂRCĂ 2018, 86; BĂRCĂ 2019, 113.

⁷⁴ The six fortresses lie in forested areas, with much moist affecting their structure by ground surface.

⁷⁵ Winter negative temperatures affect the surface structures, as well as those underground, at small depths, while frequent temperature differences significantly damage the stone structures of these sites.

⁷⁶ Rainfall and cold are factors that affect mostly these monuments.

⁷⁷ Recent years storms collapsed beech trees on the remains.

⁷⁸ Another project for the Căpâlna fortress is with the National Heritage Institute, who has recently called for a bid on SEAP for design services of studies and investigations, draft of Approval and Intervention Works Documentation, draft of the project for building works approval, the execution technical project, including the execution details, draft of technical documentation of works execution and technical assistance for restoration, consolidation and valuation of the site. We thank this way our colleague dr. Gabriel Rustoiu, Director of the National Museum of the Union of Alba Iulia, for kindly supplying this information. For details see also <https://alba24.ro/cetatea-dacica-de-la-capalna-primii-pasi-spre-restaurare-si-punere-in-valoare-cati-turisti-ar-putea-sa-o-viziteze-anual-729233.html>

⁷⁹ First archaeological researches were performed in 1953 under the coordination of C. Daicoviciu (DAICOVICIU 1954).

⁸⁰ PESCARU *et alii* 2014, 3-28.

⁸¹ These were conducted in 1949 under the coordination of Professor C. Daicoviciu.

⁸² GLODARIU/FLOREA/SUCIU/FERENCZ 2005, 211-213.

Resolution to these issues lies with the local and central authorities, as per article 7 in Government Resolution 47/2000 and Law 564/2001 for the approval of Government Ordinance 47/2000 on the establishment of protection measures of historical sites part of the world heritage sites.

For the lack of an administrator and substantial financial support of the Ministry of Culture and local authorities, these sites risk to significantly decay, with parts of them disappearing in time unless financial resources are allotted for their preservation, restoration and protection.

Recently, a draft law was submitted to the Romanian Senate concerning the legal regime of historical and archaeological ensembles and sites on the World Heritage Site List and certain protection measures of the Dacian fortresses in the Orăștie Mountains⁹¹. Article 1 of such legal proposal stipulates the takeover, inventory and record in the county public domain of these sites and their lawful administration. The legal process did not reach its end, however on 01.10.2019 the Commission for public administration approved with majority of votes such proposal and prepared a report which also contains a series of approved amendments⁹². The proposal text clearly mentions that the fortresses shall be administered by the county authorities, which must ensure their administration together with the ensuing aspects (security, protection, maintenance, valuation, funding of restoration works, preservation, research, consolidation etc.)⁹³.

SARMIZEGETUSA REGIA. ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FAILURES, CURRENT ISSUES AND OUTLOOK

The capital of the Dacian Kingdom is under the administration of Hunedoara County Council as of December 2012. The transfer of authority was made by Government Resolution 1237/2012, published in the Official Gazette 876 of December 21, 2012. One of the first measures taken by the county authorities was to establish the Administration of the historical site of Sarmizegetusa Regia⁹⁴, currently known as the Public Service of Administration of the Historical Sites (SPAMI)⁹⁵. Subsequently, things changed for the better⁹⁶, while distressing images like those until 2012 (Pl. 13), may no longer be found⁹⁷.

The administration takeover led to the establishment of the Administration of the Historical Site of Sarmizegetusa Regia⁹⁸, nowadays called Serviciul Public de Administrare a Monumentelor Istorice (SPAMI) [the Administration Public Service of Historical Monuments]⁹⁹. For seven years, the site benefits of surveillance/security 24/24 operated by a specialised company, of tranquillity and public order ensured

⁹¹ <http://www.ces.ro/newlib/PDF/proiecte/2019/b225.pdf>

⁹² <https://www.senat.ro/legis/PDF/2019/19L407CR.pdf>

⁹³ <https://www.senat.ro/legis/PDF/2019/19L407CR.pdf>

⁹⁴ Hunedoara County Council Resolution 40/2013.

⁹⁵ Established by Hunedoara County Council Resolution 36/2014. SPAMI is a legal entity with its own budget, subordinated to Hunedoara County Council.

⁹⁶ VASILESCU 2018; BĂRCĂ, 2018, 88-93; BĂRCĂ 2019, 114-117.

⁹⁷ Although circumstances in this site have changed for the better, there is still much to do, and there is still room for changes and consistent improvements in the administration, preservation and protection of this site.

⁹⁸ Hunedoara County Council Regulation, no. 40/2013.

⁹⁹ This institution was established based on the Hunedoara County Council Regulation, no. 36/2014. SPAMI is a public institution with legal entity and own budget subordinated to the Hunedoara County Council.

by the Romanian Gendarmerie (Pl. 14/2, 4), video surveillance and a well set up security plan. The taken measures led to the complete disappearance of the archaeological poaching and vandalism actions there. Since the site is much larger than the administered area, such protection and security must be extended to the entire site, even though it is difficult to accomplish for larger areas. The involvement of central and local authorities in finding solution is quite necessary especially since in preceding years in these uncontrolled areas of the site were discovered and illegally removed by poaching the majority of priceless hoards and deposits. It is certain that the administration of the 18.3 ha area, onto which lay the main remains, is insufficient for the entire site's protection.

Yearly, in the administered perimeter and certain places of the protection area, old trees are being cut (Pl. 14/1, 3). These actions, together with those of cleaning the stone structures changed for the better the site's face. Recently, by the entrance into the site were installed new modern toilets. They were located in a more appropriate area than the previous. To these also add recent wooden pavilions for visitors, mobile and provisional.

Another beneficial measure was the set up of the Consulting Scientific Council, composed of specialists of all institutions involved in heritage protection and site research. It sees that decisions taken for the site are correct and legal.

A visiting schedule and regulation were drafted and applied¹⁰⁰ (Pl. 10/1-2), for efficient protection of the site and insurance of civilised touristic system. Two visiting routes within the fortress were created (Pl. 2/2), while explanatory panels in Romanian and English for each monument were added (Pl. 11/4, 12/1). Within the entire site perimeter, yet also on the access road to the site, were placed waste bins, but also wooden benches. In the administration pavilion by the entrance into the site may be purchased adequate information materials (leaflets, booklets, books) with primary information on the site yet also various souvenirs (Pl. 10/6). As of 2016 were introduced audio guides in Romanian and English and since 2017 in German, French, Italian and Hungarian. They supply information on the site and its history¹⁰¹, thus significantly improving the interpreting and presentation infrastructure of the site.

The administration and Gendarmerie were equipped with two wooden and provisional pavilions (Pl. 10/6), adapted to realities and without damaging the archaeological stratum, while the building by the entrance on Valea Albă was refurbished. In the latter operates the surveillance base of the valley, the exhibition hall and headquarters of the gendarmerie. In 2015-2016, the European funds accessed by the county authorities¹⁰² were used for upgrading country road 705A¹⁰³, running to Sarmizegetusa Regia¹⁰⁴ (Pl. 14/5-

¹⁰⁰ In 2016, the site's visiting schedule was changed and improved.

¹⁰¹ Such information opportunity may be supplemented in the period when the number of tourists is high, by the presence of specialists making professional guides.

¹⁰² Total value of works was Lei 41,587,526.93 lei, of which European funding of Lei 29,078,140.63 lei.

¹⁰³ The length of the modernized road is of 18 km.

¹⁰⁴ Unfortunately, this road broke three times in the last two years, in 2018 collapsing on certain stretches twice, on July 26 and August 1. Beside rainfalls and landslides damaging certain road stretches another cause are the poor-

6), while at ca. 1 km from the entrance into the fortress was made a parking lot (Pl. 10/4). On this 1 km stretch, access is only by foot (Pl. 10/5). The Hunedoara County Council and site Administration efforts made the site look cared for, and constantly clean, regardless the season, thus reaching some of the standards that UNESCO sites must accomplish.

Strict compliance with the regulation led to disappearance of vandalism, order, elimination of inadequate behaviour as well as the protection of the architectural elements from the administered area. The visitors' behaviour in relation to the site and its natural milieu improves yearly.

All taken measures led to flow and behaviour control of the tourist, which is a positive factor. Positive effects of administration as well as investments in the road infrastructure making access to Sarmizegetusa Regia, contributed to tourism development in the area.

Recently, the assessment procedure of Sarmizegetusa Regia for accounting purposes and completion of Government Resolution 1705 of November 29, 2006 on the approval of the centralized inventory of public state property was initiated. This was required by the Romanian Court of Audit subsequent to a 2016 audit, specifying that SPAMI must assess and record the fixed assets and other not assessed property, like buildings and land, composing the historical site of Sarmizegetusa Regia, which it administered.

For those interested to visit Sarmizegetusa Regia, a website was designed¹⁰⁵. It provides a series of important information on the history of research, objectives, location, visiting routes, events, schedule and visiting regulation and many other aspects. The event and actions taking place at Sarmizegetusa Regia, but also a series of technical aspects are also promoted on the official Facebook page¹⁰⁶ of the administration. A complex website dedicated to the Dacian fortresses in the Orăștie Mountains on the List of World Heritage Sites¹⁰⁷ was designed. It was accomplished subsequent to the *Multiannual Archaeological Research Programme from Orăștie Mountains*, funded by the Ministry of Culture and coordinated by the National Museum of Transylvanian History in Cluj-Napoca¹⁰⁸.

For four years, the Hunedoara County Council consistently funds also the archaeological research, which significantly extended their campaign period, with remarkable results and impressive finds¹⁰⁹. The same authority ensures

quality works.

For more details and aspects see https://presshub.ro/banieuropeni/2018/10/11/drumul-spre-sarmizegetusa-regia-modernizat-in-2016-cu-fonduri-europene-s-a-rupt-de-trei-ori-in-doi-ani-cazul-este-cercetat-de-procurorii-dna/?fbclid=IwAR1UTVCQhQG6htxrLmAc_sKqfZnxcLbYpWIOsPMtcv0wHvMI dpq5jdRGY.

For investment durability is required a better analysis of risk factors, yet also their forecast. Specific protection measures are necessary for the natural and cultural site, as well the visitors' safety and of the inhabitants of Grădiștea de Munte.

¹⁰⁵ <https://cetateasarmizegetusa.ro/>

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/sarmizegetusaregiapaginaoficiala/>

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.cetati-dacice.ro/ro>

¹⁰⁸ It was a 4-year programme (2012-2015), for systematic and pluridisciplinary archaeological research in the Dacian fortresses of Orăștiei Mountains. Its goal was to increase scientific information on the Dacian sites and inhabitancy there. A series of equipments were purchased and investment in analyses and pluridisciplinary research were made, significantly increasing the scientific act quality.

¹⁰⁹ We thank this way the research team of Sarmizegetusa Regia, led by

transport of unskilled workers employed for the excavations. The Council is also supported by the Babeș-Bolyai University which leased the Grădiștea de Munte school building, which it changed into an ultramodern archaeological base. The archaeologists are logistically supported also by the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation in Deva and National Museum of Transylvanian History, yet also by the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, led by Professor Călin Neamțu, which for four years have been scanning with 3D technologies the archaeological excavations and discovered remains (Pl. 16). Surveys were also made by modern methods and an accurate plan of the site and its stretch was drafted by a team of the Faculty of Geography with the Babeș-Bolyai University. Thus, it was noted that its main axis, along the central hill ridge, the site stretches over 4.5 km and includes over 260 manmade terraces, set up in Antiquity, yet also that it covers an area of almost 400 ha. of flat terrain¹¹⁰. The site was also LIDAR scanned in 2012¹¹¹, by a team of specialists hired by BBC working together with Discovery Channel on the making of the documentary *Rome's Lost Empire*. Relevant LIDAR scanning results are being now processed and forthcoming¹¹². Data supplied by this active remote sensing technique will contribute to a better understanding of the realities at Sarmizegetusa Regia¹¹³. Therefore, systematic archaeological research and multi-disciplinary approaches are positive and beneficial factors for this site.

In 2017 the timbers posts of the large circular sanctuary were changed (Pl. 12/2) and the poor state protection fence of the paved road replaced (Pl. 11/5). All these measures and efforts inevitably led to increased interest for this site and rise in the number of tourists from 30 thousand in 2013 to 75 thousand in 2019. Positive and beneficial is the Doors Open Day on the archaeological site of Sarmizegetusa Regia. In this day, those interested may visit the excavation site and receive explanations related to ongoing archaeological excavations and an ample guiding of the monuments in the fortress made by specialists.

By the end of March 2019, Hunedoara County Council approved a cooperation protocol for enhancing the value of the Dacian fortresses of Orăștie Mountains. It was signed for five years between said authority, the Babeș-Bolyai University, the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation in Deva and the National Museum of Transylvanian History in Cluj-Napoca and aims at establishing a legal cooperation

Professor Gelu Florea, for their openness and kindness to present on site the finds of the last three years.

¹¹⁰ See FLOREA 2017, 363, Pl. 113/1-2. We thank this way our friend dr. Răzvan Mateescu, member of the research team of Sarmizegetusa Regia, for kindly supplying this information, yet many other related to the archaeological research and protection of this site.

¹¹¹ Cf. FLOREA 2017, 364-365.

¹¹² A laser LIDAR scanning shall be accomplished for Sarmizegetusa Regia and Costești-Cetățuie also by the National Heritage Institute https://adevarul.ro/locale/hunedoara/sarmizegetusa-regia-rosia-montana-costesti-vor-scanate-tehnologie-ultima-generatie-detaliile-proiectului-cele-mai-misterioase-locuri-antice-1_5a074c075ab6550cb80f3e21/index.html; <https://www.libertatea.ro/stiri/cetatea-dacica-sarmizegetusa-regia-va-fi-scanata-din-avion-1896379>

¹¹³ To avoid archaeological poaching and protect the entire site area, we believe that the publishing of topographical surveys and LIDAR data should be made only after the extension of surveillance/security of the entire site. If this does not happen, such information may be used by those who practice the archaeological poaching.

and funding framework of the systematic archaeological excavations in the Dacian fortresses of Orăștie Mountains and to value these world heritage sites scientifically, culturally and touristic. As such, the Hunedoara Council undertook to finance yearly the excavations of the Dacian fortresses perimeter with at least Lei 100.000¹¹⁴ and implement and facilitate experience and good practice exchanges with similar international entities, especially Bibracte EPCC (France), with which it signed a cooperation protocol in the autumn of 2018 for five years¹¹⁵. Also, the protocol signed between the Babeș-Bolyai University and the University of Bordeaux is noteworthy. Accordingly, starting with this year, Romanian archaeologists and students will partake the archaeological excavations at Bibracte, while at Sarmizegetusa Regia will arrive French archaeologists and students.

Also, worthy of mention here is project implementation “*Când viața cotidiană antică devine patrimoniu UNESCO. Scanarea, restaurarea digital și contextualizarea artefactelor dacice din Munții Orăștie*” [When ancient everyday life becomes UNESCO heritage. The scanning, digital restoration and contextualization of Dacian artefacts from Orăștie Mountains]¹¹⁶. It was prepared and implemented by the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca in partnership with the National Museum of Transylvanian History, Babeș-Bolyai University and the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation of Deva. Completed by the end of the last year, it was funded by Financial Mechanism SEE 2009-2014 project line: PA16/RO12 *Conservarea și revitalizarea patrimoniului cultural și natural* [The conservation and the revitalization of cultural and natural heritage]¹¹⁷.

Within the project, it was attempted to make an incursion in the daily life of the Dacians as it results from the archaeological finds of almost 100 years of systematic excavations there. Thus, more than 500 representative artefacts were digitized for their international promotion, as well as over 500 digitized artefacts discovered in the Dacian sites included on the World Heritage Site's list were converted (Pl. 15). A database was designed in the form of an open web platform for managing 3D models and metadata in accordance with Europeana portal¹¹⁸, which may be later completed with other scanned 3D models. Certain houses and appendices, workshops, temples and Dacian fortifications from the Orăștie Mountains were digitally reconstructed, and a virtual tour of the museum available online was made. An ample catalogue of real and virtual pieces was published, as well as reconstructions of Dacian objects, constructions and fortresses, visible in normal or anaglyph formats¹¹⁹. Since 2015, during the Door Open Day visitors may interact with last generation 3D technologies

used to enhance the value of many of the Dacian remains from Orăștie Mountains in this project (Pl. 18)¹²⁰.

Two multimedia exhibition spaces were set up in the project¹²¹, one with the National Museum of Transylvanian History and the other in the Deva-based Museum, housing the two mixed exhibitions: real/virtual, *Incursiuni dacice în mediul virtual [Dacian incursions in the virtual environment]*. They offer the visitors the possibility to interact with the virtual environment represented by the digitized artefacts and the virtually reconstructed sites¹²².

The project implementation facilitated the access to the Dacian heritage in the Orăștie Mountains, the interested public being able to easily access much information on the Dacian sites and understanding the importance of these remains in the Orăștie Mountains¹²³.

Past these positive facts, there are a series of aspects that still require remedy. Amongst counts the dislodgement of blocks and constructional elements on certain wall stretches of the fortification (Pl. 11/1) or the pentagonal tower (part of the supporting wall of terrace XI) (Pl. 12/5), as well as the poor state of the Roman baths, not much visible, being covered with earth, vegetation and parts of fallen trees. In a poor state is also what remains of the access stairs made of limestone blocks on the southern side of the large limestone temple from terrace XI.

Another issue to solve, yet unrelated to the site administrator, regards the old and sick trees¹²⁴ endangering daily both the monuments and lives of the visitors. Their increased collapse following strong winds or storm became an issue whose resolution must be immediate (Pl. 17)

To protect the visitors, the Administration of Sarmizegetusa Regia was compelled to place by the entrance into the site of a panel warning the tourists about the dangers on the visiting routes of the Dacian fortress: “Warning, Yellow Code. Please circulate carefully in the forested area. Branches or trees that may affect your integrity may fall. In case of storm, tempests or rain signalled by the entrance into the administered area, please strictly comply with the indications of the surveillant agents” (Pl. 10/3).

¹²⁰ Amiable information dr. Răzvan Mateescu.

¹²¹ The following equipment was set up in each exhibition areas: 3D multimedia professional projector (1 pc.), 3D multimedia projector (2 pcs.), haptic device (2 pcs.), interactive table (1 pc.), Microsoft kinect (3 pcs.), display 3D Smart TV (3 pcs.), monitor 3D 24“ (6 pcs.), 3D glasses, exhibition blinds system, exhibition cases, audio system, exhibition lightning system, theft-proof system.

¹²² For additional information on this project and its remarkable results see <https://dacit.utcluj.ro/>; <https://www.facebook.com/dacit.utcluj/>; http://www.fonduri-patrimoniu.ro/proiecte_doc_101_cand-viaata-cotidiana-antica-devine-patrimoniu-unesco-scanarea-restaurarea-digitala-si-contextualizarea-artefactelor-dacice-din-muntii-orastiei_pg_0.htm

¹²³ For the special contribution on the preservation and improvement of the cultural European Heritage and Europa Nostra awarded this project special award (<https://www.europanostra.org/2019-european-heritage-awards-europa-nostra-awards-special-mentions/?fbclid=IwAR0TWd4NXNG-YgMf0vzAYg1FidCWxnqMXu9-2iC8vwwk43L2ZyapBebWOrU>).

¹²⁴ The Dacian fortresses in Hunedoara county on the List of World Heritage Sites are located in the Natural Park Grădiștea Muncelului-Cioclovina. It is a natural protected area, whose aim is to protect and preserve habitats and natural species important from forestry, floral, fauna's points of view etc. Its regulations forbid exploitation and use activities of natural resources, especially in integral protection areas. Within the range of the latter lay some of the Dacian fortresses, which often hinders both archaeological research, restoration and preservation activities and the administration of these sites.

¹¹⁴ https://www.avantulliber.ro/2019/03/31/protocol-pentru-sustinerea-cercetarilor-arheologice-in-muntii-orastiei/?fbclid=IwAR2eTJscjPjG_smHlHbsn7plx6Ti6yR5RLchkIf4rZAC9CgWdA0uHBB32HU

¹¹⁵ <https://www.avantulliber.ro/2018/11/12/protocol-de-colaborare-privind-administrarea-siturilor-arheologice-bibracte-franta-si-sarmizegetusa-regia/>

¹¹⁶ We thank this way Professor Călin Neamțu with the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, the project manager, for kindly supplying us with information on the project making and implementation.

¹¹⁷ Project funded by a grant offered by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

¹¹⁸ Europeana.eu is an internet portal functioning as interface to millions of books, paintings, films, museal objects and archive records digitized in Europe.

¹¹⁹ Cf. <https://dacit.utcluj.ro/results>

Because on the same surface, the status of archaeological site and protected natural area are superimposed and the unclear legal status regarding the rules protecting UNESCO sites and that which protects the forestry fund and the Natural Park Grădiștea Muncelului – Cioclovina, research in some parts of the site are impossible to perform or only with the approval of Romsilva. This is also the reason why the trees fallen on monuments are impossible to remove, as any interference leads to criminal complaints¹²⁵. The site is increasingly destroyed by the frequent fallen trees in the last years¹²⁶, yet regulations to remedy such anomalies are still pending, despite numerous complaints to this effect¹²⁷. Thus, the request to remove the remains at Sarmizegetusa Regia from the forestry fund and the legislative initiative of the Hunedoara MPs to remove the six fortresses from the forestry fund were unsuccessful. The draft law mentioned above, concerning the legal status of historical and archaeological ensembles and sites¹²⁸ stipulates, among other, that land plots on which lay the Dacian fortresses included among the World Heritage Sites, be removed for ever from the national forestry fund, without pay and compensation¹²⁹. These provisions are also found in article 1, 8 and 9 of this legislative project, including the report of amendments passed for this regulation proposal 01.10.2019 drafted and approved by the Public Administration Commission of the Senate¹³⁰.

Another issue for emergency remedy concerns the lack of management plans for both Sarmizegetusa Regia and the other five fortresses¹³¹, although two decades have passed since their inclusion on the World Heritage Site's List¹³².

Among the failures of the Sarmizegetusa Regia administrator adds the lack of projects drafted to access European funds for historical sites, although the recent funding programme, the Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020, Priority Axis 5. *Conservarea, protecția și valorificarea durabilă a patrimoniului cultural prin prioritatea de investiții 5.1. Conservarea, protejarea, promovarea și dezvoltarea patrimoniului natural și cultural [Conservation,*

¹²⁵ Cf. BÂRCĂ 2018, 93; BÂRCĂ 2019, 117.

¹²⁶ Cf. BÂRCĂ 2018, 93; BÂRCĂ 2019, 117.

¹²⁷ Subsequent to discussion and negotiations the old trees were removed from the site's surface, by the end of January and early February 2018 under the surveillance of administration employees and the archaeologists of the Deva Museum. Such actions were both opposed and excessively mediated, in many cases supplied information being exaggerate or inaccurate.

¹²⁸ <http://www.ces.ro/newlib/PDF/proiecte/2019/b225.pdf>

¹²⁹ <http://www.ces.ro/newlib/PDF/proiecte/2019/b225.pdf>

¹³⁰ <https://www.senat.ro/legis/PDF/2019/19L407CR.pdf>

¹³¹ The management plan must have a structure that would contain key concepts and elements for a long-term administration, protection and valuation, to the benefit of both the site and mankind. In the case of the Dacian fortresses, the draft of management plan is vital for their future. As examples, may be used the management plans of sites which are worldwide good practice models, numerous also in Europe (Bărcă 2018, 94; Bărcă 2019, 117-118).

¹³² A first structured approach of the management plans of the UNESCO sites was published in 1993 and republished five years later (FEILDEN/JOKILEHTO 1993). It underlines also issues related to the management of World Heritage Sites, the work being a reference document even today. For the general framework of the management system see *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* of February 2005 and that of July 2017 (<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/opguide05-en.pdf>; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>).

protection and sustainable use of cultural heritage through investment priority 5.1. Conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage], provides substantial amounts for UNESCO monuments. The lack of funding requests by the Hunedoara County Council is due to the fact that since 2013 to date, there are still issues and mandatory aspects unresolved which would allow them. Among, count the lack of the Zone Urban Plan, the approval documentation of intervention works (D.A.L.I.), completed in the autumn of 2018¹³³ or that of an analysis and financial forecast plan, yet also a management and marketing plan of the site, all required by any successful funding applications¹³⁴. Given the complexity and duration of these documents, it is highly unlikely that European funds may be still acquired until 2020 for Sarmizegetusa Regia.

In 2019, the project "*Restaurarea și punerea în valoare a sitului arheologic Sarmizegetusa Regia*" [Restoration and enhancement of the archaeological site Sarmizegetusa Regia]¹³⁵, the fruit of the cooperation protocol and agreement on the draft of investigative studies and D.A.L.I.¹³⁶ for the historical site of Sarmizegetusa Regia signed between Hunedoara County Council and the National Heritage Institute was presented on several occasions. According to Director dr. Ștefan Bălici, the project has three main goals: **1.** Preservation of the archaeological remains and existing historical material; **2.** Recovery of the meanings and architectural specificities of the ruins; **3.** Interpreting and presenting the site¹³⁷.

Studies and documentations made by the Institute's specialists, would underlie future preservation, restoration and value enhancement of the archaeological site of Sarmizegetusa Regia¹³⁸.

Last but not least, in November of this year, Hunedoara County Council submitted a funding request to implement the project "*Capitala Daciei – muzeu viu al patrimoniului cultural european*" within Programme RO – Cultura, APEL "*Restaurarea și revitalizarea monumentelor istorice*" [Capital of Dacia - living museum of European cultural heritage] within Program RO - Culture, APEL "Restoration and revitalization of historical monuments], funded by SEE and Norwegian funds 2014-2021]¹³⁹. The partners of this project are "*Mihai*

¹³³ The representatives of Hunedoara County Council have stated that the amount assessed as necessary for the rehabilitation, protection and preservation works of Sarmizegetusa Regia is 60 million Euros, but also that after the completion of the approval documentation of the works, they will seek funding sources for the preservation and protection of the UNESCO site. See to this effect <http://zhd.ro/eveniment/politica-administratie/protejarea-sitului-sarmizegetusa-regia-are-nevoie-de-60-milioane-de-euro/>; https://adevarul.ro/locale/hunedoara/lucrarile-sarmizegetusa-regia-fost-evaluate-60-milioane-euro-suma-fabuloasa-acoperi-costurile-conservarii-protejarii-cetatii-dacice-1_591492945ab6550cb802ba63/index.html

¹³⁴ Cf. BÂRCĂ 2018, 94; BÂRCĂ 2019, 118.

¹³⁵ We thank this way our colleagues Ștefan Bălici, Irina Iamandescu and Virgil Apostol for being kind to supply information related to the intervention principles and implementation of this project.

¹³⁶ The project drafted in stage D.A.L.I. delivered by the NHI, whose technical indicators were approved by the beneficiary (CJ Hunedoara) is titled: *Conservarea, restaurarea și punerea în valoare a Sitului arheologic Sarmizegetusa Regia* [Conservation, restoration and enhancement of the Sarmizegetusa Regia archaeological site].

¹³⁷ <https://www.cotidianul.ro/restaurarea-sitului-sarmizegetusa-regia-unesco/>

¹³⁸ <https://www.cotidianul.ro/restaurarea-sitului-sarmizegetusa-regia-unesco/>

¹³⁹ Amiable information Sorin Adrian Vasilescu, vice-president of Hunedoara County Council. <https://glasul-hd.ro/capitala-daciei-muzeu-viu-proiect-de->

Eminescu Trust” Foundation and the University of Oslo¹⁴⁰. The project targets the preservations, restoration and value enhancement of the site at Sarmizegetusa Regia¹⁴¹. The main activities to unfold are: **1.** Restoration and revitalizing of the historical site Sarmizegetusa Regia, with the inclusion of the design and execution services of the restoration works in accordance with the technical documentation D.A.L.I. drafted for such purpose, and based on the design note and design topic 6124 of October 21, 2019¹⁴². **2.** The making of modular structures/panels temporarily located on site for setting up an area designed to informative, educational and cultural activities. These types of activities are aimed at promoting the mobile cultural heritage (pottery, metal objects etc.) and immaterial heritage, including folk customs and crafts which belong to the rural area of Hunedoara county and especially, the Sarmizegetusa Regia area. **3.** Set up of an international exhibition titled “*Capitala Daciei – muzeu viu al patrimoniului cultural european*” [Capital of Dacia - living museum of European cultural heritage]. **4.** Digitizing and promotion of the site by ensuring online visiting of the site via the documentation and photos made during various stages of its restoration¹⁴³.

To these adds another funding proposal for Sarmizegetusa Regia via the National Reform Programme 2019¹⁴⁴.

As regards the other fortresses, such funding for their preservation, protection and promotion is impossible to obtain from national institutions and entities.

Notably, in the recent period the relation between the management of the historical site of Sarmizegetusa Regia and that of Hunedoara County Council on one hand and the County Culture Directorate of Hunedoara on the other¹⁴⁵ has become dysfunctional. Lastly, some of the newspapers, publications or web pages criticized the administration of the site at Sarmizegetusa Regia and the archaeologist conducting excavations there. Occasionally, the information in these texts were exaggerated, misleading, inaccurate or simply untrue. We believe that the numerous existing issues, especially in the case of the other five fortresses without administration, should unite, while efforts and actions carried out for their development and welfare. The policy of throwing grit into the machine and disputes on a series

restaurare-a-sarmizegetusei-regia/?fbclid=IwAR18P_JtuhqrKy5Y0KDPQ1bxf1fbzEUiE6E3QmRDZ587_I-O-gotZMsJJZg

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.cjhunedoara.ro/documente/convocatoare/2019/PH%20SITE%2031%20OCT%202019/22%20PH%20NCTP%20CAPITALA%20DACIEI.pdf>

¹⁴¹ The project is an excerpt of that made by the NHI (amiable information Irina Iamandescu).

¹⁴² Design note (as per GR 907/2016, appendix 1) for this investment objective drafted by NHI was approved by the Hunedoara County Council by the end of October 2019. <http://www.cjhunedoara.ro/documente/convocatoare/2019/PH%20SITE%2031%20OCT%202019/22%20PH%20NCTP%20CAPITALA%20DACIEI.pdf>

¹⁴³ <http://www.cjhunedoara.ro/documente/noutati/finantari%202019/Anunt%20rez%20selectie%20parteneri%20RoCultura.pdf>

¹⁴⁴ BĂLICI 2019.

¹⁴⁵ Cf. <https://romanalibera.ro/social/hunedoara-administratorul-cetatii-sarmizegetusa-regia-a-demisionat-754802>; <http://zhd.ro/eveniment/politica-administratie/protest-ziua-a-patra-ce-spun-fostii-sefi-ai-consiliului-judeatan-hunedoara-despre-vladimir-brilinsky/>; <http://www.stiridinvest.ro/administratorul-sarmizegetusa-regia-a-demisionat-acuzand-pesedizarea-acestui-loc/>; <http://www.ziare.com/deva/stiri-actualitate/bobora-l-a-convins-pe-vladimir-brilinsky-sa-renunte-la-protest-7482238>

of insignificant topics, like the tree cutting of 2018, aids nothing, but rather complicates things and obviously, does not solve the real issues of these sites. Instead of losing time debating, it is better to join forces and ask in a single voice, based on the laws in force, the urgent resolution of existing problems, but also support, by a series of specific actions, volunteering, the people willing to aid in various forms the protection, promotion and research of these sites.

Beyond all the above, the effort of those running the administration, protection, valuation or research of Sarmizegetusa Regia is commendable and worth supporting, by the local and central authorities as well as the academic environment and civil society. Here it would be required the firm support of the Romanian Academy, involved over several decades, through a series of scholars with subordinate Institutes, in the research of the six Dacian fortresses listed as world heritage sites.

It is certain there is no perfect administration yet or a sound administration model at Sarmizegetusa Regia, nonetheless, it is obvious this site moved away from the status of un-administered site. We are confident that yearly, any dysfunctionality will disappear, mistakes and failures would become less and less, despite the site’s complexity, while the efforts of those involved in its administration, research and valuation would increase.

The positive advances in the administration, research and valuation of the capital of the Dacian Kingdom in the last seven years, with preponderantly beneficial results in the form of the change for the better of the site’s image and promotion, even though difficulties are still present, give us hope that in a short while, the other fortresses in this fortified complex would benefit of a treatment to the measure of their universal value¹⁴⁶.

INSTEAD OF CONCLUSIONS

Twenty years after the six fortifications, recognized for their uniqueness in the world, were listed among World Heritage Sites, it is noted that five (Bănița, Costești-Blidaru, Costești-Cetățuie, Căpâlna, Piatra Roșie) are not protected, preserved, researched, cared for, valued and promoted as provided by the national and international laws in the field of protection and valuation of the cultural heritage. In their case, there are many problems and aspects left unresolved, leading to the decay of some of these fortresses. If the measures of the central and local authorities will be long in coming, there will be cases where portions will physically disappear over time, especially since they lay in a mountain area and exposed bad weather (excessive humidity, low temperatures, abundant rainfalls, landslides etc.), which contribute to their accelerated deterioration.

The poor state of five of the six universal interest sites reveals that the Romanian state via the Ministry of Culture and National Identity, supposed to protect the cultural heritage, entirely despises and is completely disinterested of these fortresses. The inaction of the central state authorities to which adds the refusal to transfer their administration to local authorities evidences complete lack of responsibility and respect for these sites that belong to the universal heritage.

¹⁴⁶ BĂRCĂ 2019, 119.

For their remedy are necessary urgent actions to improve the legal framework and its periodical adjustment according to the new directions and strategies recommended by UNESCO. It is necessary a new law for the sites on the List of World Heritage Sites in Romania. It should provide for the establishment of an integrated system of regulations, correlated to UNESCO recommendations, but also the correlation of direct protection measures with the regulations on urbanism and territory set up. The latter should be correlated with the cultural heritage code. Also, a series of aspects related to the sites' monitoring and management should be regulated, alike also the involvement of local authorities, owners, academic community and civil society in their management, protection and valuation. Such laws would significantly contribute to the improvement of the sites' management from Romania. Debates and discussions for the draft of a document of policies for the preservation and promotion of these sites would also be beneficial, as well as the set up of model for heritage management, depending on the needs and peculiarities of each site. It is certain that the main direction to follow is passing adequate heritage policies based on good practice models in the administration of sites. For the Dacian fortresses in the Orăştie Mountains a special law is required. Thus, the regulation proposal regulating all aspects related to the legal regime of the historical and archaeological ensembles and sites part of the World Heritage Sites and certain measures for the protection of the Dacian fortresses in the Orăştie Mountains¹⁴⁷, submitted to the Romanian Senate this year, requires immediate adoption. A positive effect for improving the situation of these fortresses would be the intervention of the World Heritage Committee, which has the necessary authority to imperatively require the Romanian state to remedy all existing problems. Therefore, we may only hope that in a short while, all necessary measures will be taken so that the current state of these fortresses be remedied as quick as possible by the central and local authorities, which are bound to protect these historical sites in the universal cultural heritage.

In conclusion, we wish to remind ruling authorities that the protection and valuation of the cultural heritage left inherited from previous generations are key links in the durable development of the society, with priceless benefits. Last but not least, the Romanian authorities must be reminded they are bound to do everything possible to protect all historical sites beyond any cultural or educational limits and become a long-term priority for Romania.

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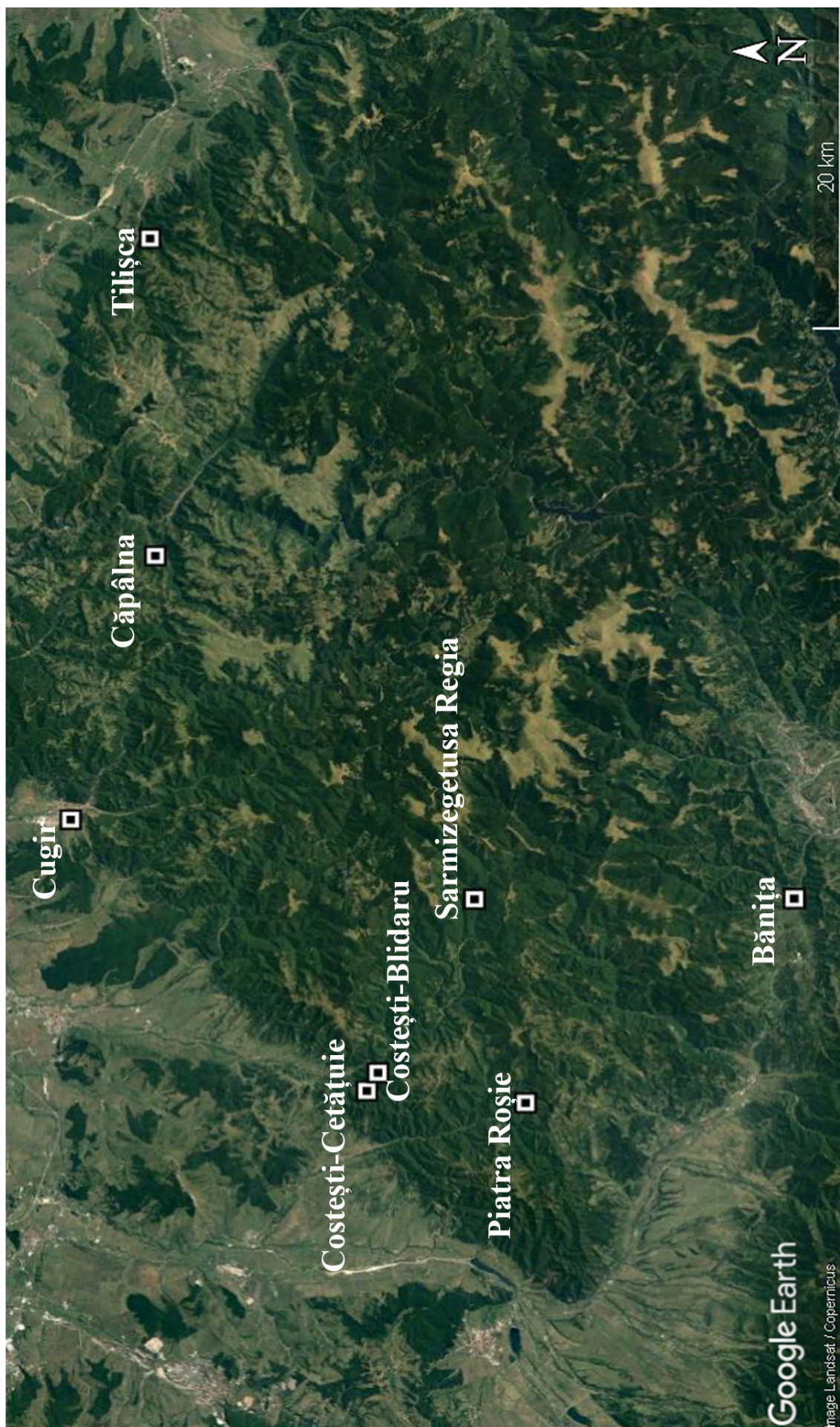
¹⁴⁷ <https://www.senat.ro/legis/PDF/2019/19L407CR.pdf>

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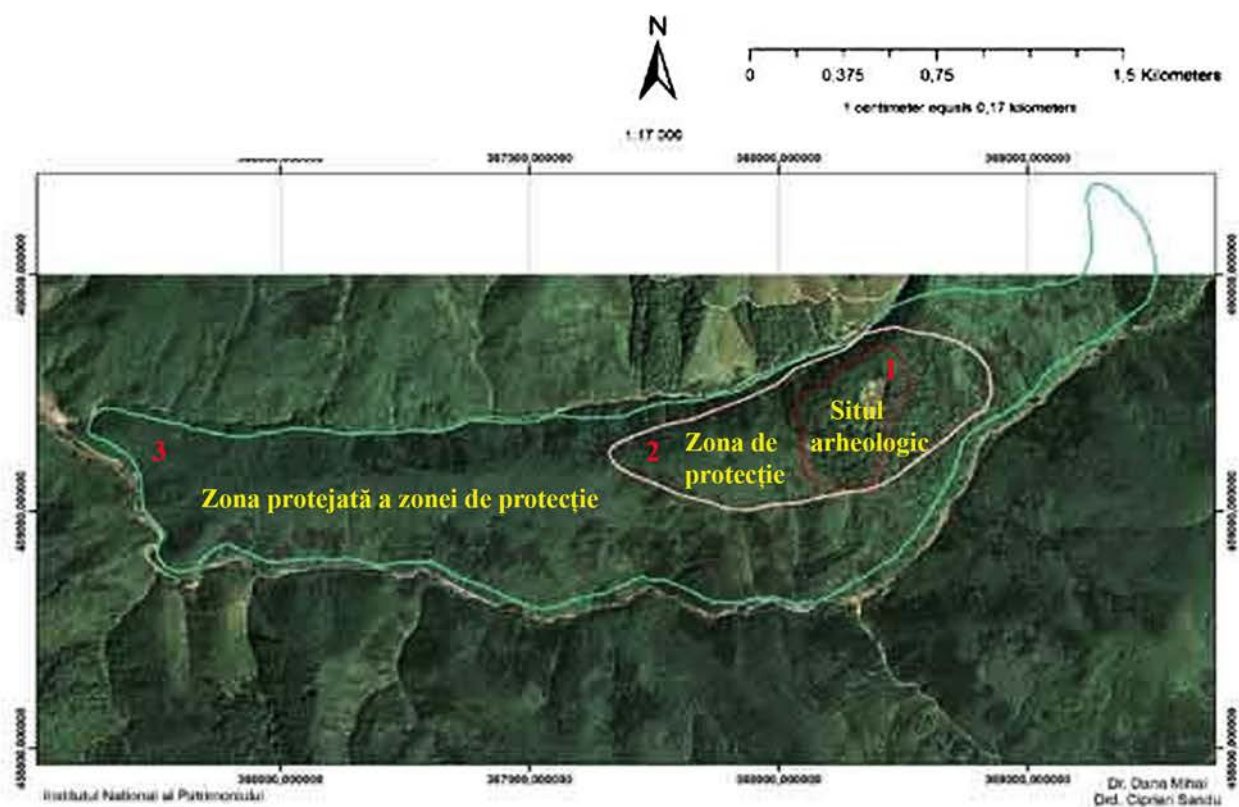
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Pl. 1. Map with the location of the Dacian fortresses on the UNESCO World Heritage sites.



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PI. 2. 1. The Dacian fortress at Sarmizegetusa Regia, with the site location (1), protected area (2) and the protected area protection (3) (source: <https://patrimoniu.gov.ro/images/rapoarte-unesco-2015/Raport-de-monitorizareCetatile-Dacice-din-Muntii-Orastiei-2015.pdf>); 2. Plan with the archaeological points and visiting routes (after MATEESCU/PUPEZĂ 2016).



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Pl. 3. 1. Aerial view of the Sarmizegetusa Regia fortress (photo Sándor Berecki, 2018); 2. Aerial view of the sacred area (after MATEESCU 2012).



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Pl. 4. Aerial view of the Costești-Cetățuie (1); Costești-Blidaru (2) and Pietra Roșie fortresses (3) (photo Sándor Berecki, 2018).



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Pl. 5. Aerial view of the fortresses at Bănița (1) (photo Sándor Berecki, 2018) and Căpâlna (2) (after BERECKI/CZAJLIK/SOÓS 2012).



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Pl. 6. 1. Sarmizegetusa Regia. Andesite plinths of the temple on the 10th terrace; 2. Architectonical elements of the small andesite rectangular temple on the 11th terrace; 3. The temples on the southern side of the sacred area (11th terrace); 4. The large round temple (11th terrace); 5. The andesite altar (11th terrace); 6. Terracotta tubes pipe discovered in the small limestone sanctuary perimeter (11th terrace) (after MATEESCU 2016).



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Pl. 7. 1. Ironsmith tools, lumps, ingots and half-finished object discovered in the Dacian fortresses from the Orăștie Mountains; **2.** Woodwork tools from the Dacian fortresses in the Orăștie Mountains; **3.** Inventory of goldsmith set on the 8th terrace from Sarmizegetusa Regia; **4.** Goldsmiths anvils from Sarmizegetusa Regia; **5.** Iron tongs from Sarmizegetusa Regia; **6.** Deposit of iron objects buried most likely by early 2nd century AD (after IAROSLAVSCHI/MATEESCU 2016).



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Pl. 8. Sarmizegetusa Regia. 1-2. Bronze mould; 3. Decoration of the large iron spurs; 4. Painted pear-shaped vessel; 5. Painted jug; 6. Fragment of andesite column (after FLOREA/CRISTESCU 2016).



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Pl. 9. 1. Curved sword – *falx* from Sarmizegetusa Regia; **2.** Curved sword – *falx* (Ursici, Boşorod commune); **3.** Land and spear tips from Costeşti-Cetăţuie and Sarmizegetusa Regia; **4.** Arrowheads from Costeşti-Cetăţuie; **5.** *Dolabrae* from Costeşti – Cetăţuie and Sarmizegetusa Regia; **6.** Straight sword (Ursici, Boşorod commune) (after PUPEZĂ 2016).



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Pl. 10. Sarmizegetusa Regia. Explanatory (1-2) and warning panels (3), parking set up at ca. 1 km from site (4), access road (5), mobile wooden pavilions for Management and Gendarmerie (6) (photo Vitalie Bârcă, 2018).



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Pl. 11. Sarmizegetusa Regia. Fortress wall (1-3, 6); explanatory panel (4) and paved road (5) (photo Vitalie Bărcă, 2018).



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Pl. 12. Sarmizegetusa Regia. Explanatory panel (1); images of the sacred area (2); paved road (3); large limestone temple on terrace XI (4); pentagonal tower (5); channel of limestone elements on terrace XI (6) (photo Vitalie Bârcă, 2018).



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Pl. 13. Sarmizegetusa Regia prior the administration of the County Council of Hunedoara. Access road to Sarmizegetusa Regia prior modernising (1); discouraging view and trash left by tourists (2-4); group with spiritual concerns on the andesite altar (5); vandalising and archaeological poaching actions (6) (after S.A. Vasilescu, 2018).



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Pl. 14. Sarmizegetusa Regia. Trees' cutting in the managed perimeter (1); ensuring the quiet and public order by the Romanian Gendarmerie (2); maintenance and toiletry works of the green spaces in the sacred area (3); surveillance/security of the site by the private security company (4); modernising and asphaltting the road leading to Sarmizegetusa (5); aerial view of the modernised road (6) (after S. A. Vasilescu, 2018).



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Pl. 15. Aspects from during the scanning of the artefacts (1-3); type of devices used to scan the artefacts (4) (after NEAMȚU/FLOREA/GHEORGHIU/BODÓ 2016).



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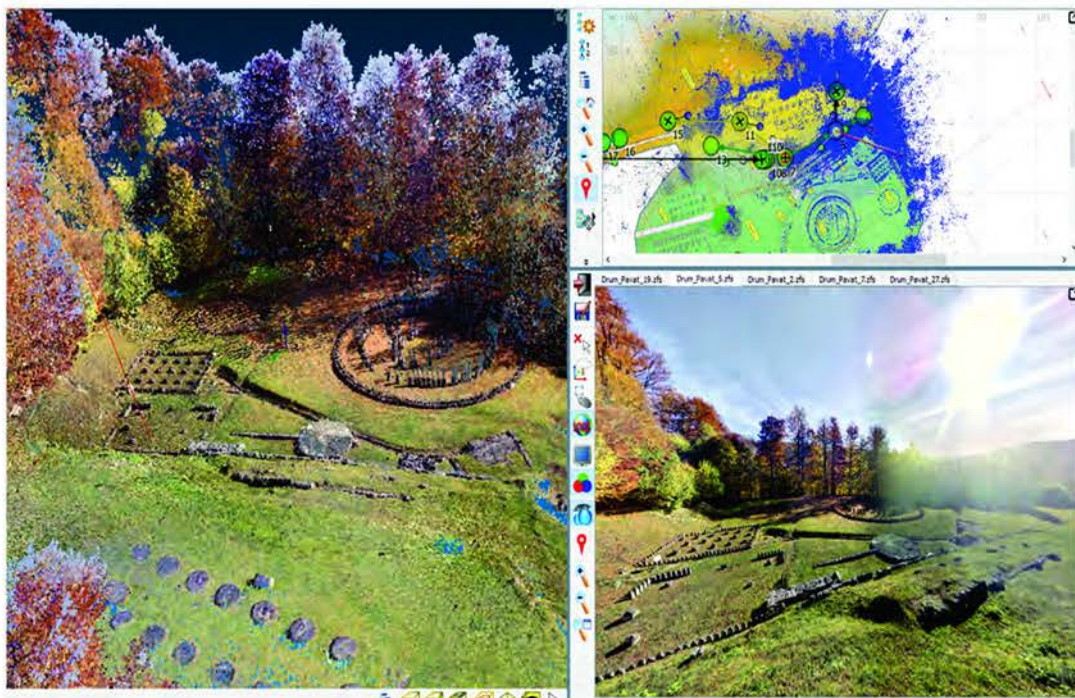
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Pl. 16. Aspects from during the scanning of the monuments (1-4); a stage in the process of processing data resulted from the monuments' scan (5) (1, 4-5 - after NEAMȚU/FLOREA/GHEORGHIU/BODÓ 2016; 2-3 - photo Răzvan Mateescu).



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Pl. 17. 1-3. Fallen trees (photo Răzvan Mateescu (1), Vitalie Bârcă (2), S. A. Vasilescu (3)).



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Pl. 18. Door Open Day. The visitors' interaction with 3D technologies (source: <https://www.facebook.com/dacit.utcluj> (1-3); <https://dacit.utcluj.ro/> (4)).