

THE FINAL SPECIFIC RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT 2020-2021

Název projektu/ Project title:

Catacombs and their settlements in South-Eastern Sicily (4th-6th c. AD): a unique landscape in a unique historical context / Katakomy a související osídlení v jihovýchodní Sicílii ve 4. – 6. st. : jedinečná krajina v jedinečném historickém kontextu

Doba trvání projektu / Project duration :

1 rok / 1 year

Řešitelský tým / Team of investigators:

Mgr. Joan Pinar Gil, PhD

Mgr. Miroslav Pleska

Popis a splnění cílů řešení / Description and fulfillment of projects objectives :

1. Preparation of the 2020 archaeological expedition (April-September)

The preparation included approving two cooperation agreements between the UHK and the State Agency for Archaeological and Environmental Heritage in Sicily and getting them signed. The final signatures of the relevant authorities were collected in July.

Concurrently, the preparation of the expedition was developed. The equipment needed for the fieldwork (spotlights, laser measuring devices, digital cameras) and for the data processing (laptop) were selected and purchased, whereas four students were recruited to participate in the Erasmus internship associated with the research project.

In a later moment, the travel and logistics, including safety rules and prevention of eventual anti-Covid mobility restrictions, were set up.

2. Fieldwork: excavation in the Late Antique catacomb D, Scorrione W, Modica (October-November)

The preliminary fieldwork aiming at launching systematic excavations started on October 2nd, whereas the proper excavations went on uninterruptedly from October 5th to November 30th.

The activity was focused inside and outside the hypogeum D, a big funerary chamber preserving traces of over 40 graves. Thanks to the excellent performance of the UHK team, we succeeded in excavating the whole catacomb and in collecting a whole range of archaeological data. The abundant and rich finds confirmed my previous diagnoses on the potential of the site and the correctness of the excavation project.

The unearthed finds include intact layers and graves, plentiful of artefacts, some of which completely new and previously undocumented in the region, and consisting traces of wall carving and painting.

The assemblage is very relevant from both a quantitative and qualitative point of view, and seems to be destined to have a high impact in the current state of the art: they appear to be a unique dataset for this whole category of site. The potential and interest for future research is, in all likelihood, extremely high.

In addition, a whole new funerary chamber, set few meters north from the hypogeum D, has been discovered by our expedition. It is still unrecorded in the archives of the State Agency for Heritage and shows a good state of preservation.

The positive results and the optimal collaboration between the UHK expedition, the local State Agency for Heritage and the owners of the land has convinced everyone of the parts about the convenience of extending the research programme by organizing further campaigns.

3. Documentation of archaeological finds and training of students (October-November)

Besides the research activity, great attention has been devoted also to the training of the UHK students participating in the internship program. Students were not only involved in the excavation, but also in the processing of finds, which improved in a comprehensive manner their skills as archaeologists. Processing of finds included how to clean and document, through cataloguing, photographing and drawing many classes of materials: pottery sherds, metal objects, glass, stone and bones. In addition, the students also participated in workshops where they familiarized with the Sicilian archaeological materials, thus completing their knowledge about Late Antique and Early Medieval archaeology of the region.

This documentation finds, parallel to the development of the excavations, has enabled to produce very quickly a good-quality amount of data that will be used to produce very quick the first publications deriving from the excavation campaigns, only a few weeks after the completion of the expedition.

In addition, the site and some structures in the surroundings have been geolocalized as a previous step towards the implementation of a powerful GIS of the site and its surroundings, to be developed in the upcoming years. Likewise, 3D scans are currently being ultimated by Miroslav Pleska.

4. Scientific contacts, research planning and meetings (October-December)

Constant communication with the Sicilian partners has ensured the best possible development of activities and a strong planning for future research. Several meetings were organised with the personnel of the State Agency for Heritage (Dr. Sammito and Dr. Scerra, responsible persons for the area and renowned experts in Late Antique ceramics and epigraphy) and with

scholars and restorers from Museums and Universities of the region, whose expertise ranges from Greek to Late Medieval archaeology to field work. During the whole campaign, Dr. Beghelli (University of Mainz, expert in Late Antique and Early medieval stone artefacts and architecture) was also present, thus reinforcing the collaboration between UHK and Mainz in view of launching a joint international research project.

5. Preparation and submission of funding applications (April-December)

A first application was prepared and submitted to GAČR in April-May. Unfortunately, the project (which could not yet count on the valuable results of the 2020 expedition) was not awarded funding. As a result of the strengthening of the cooperation between UHK and Mainz University, it has been already decided that the next application submitted to the GAČR will be an international cooperation submitted co-ordinately to the GAČR and to the German DFG within a special bilateral program. The application will be submitted concurrently by the Czech and the German team in Spring 2022.

An application for an intra-institute research partnership funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has been prepared and submitted by two Humboldt alumni, Dr. Pinar at the UHK and Prof. Vasiliki Tsamadka at Mainz University. The application has been evaluated positively and awarded funding, and has officially started in January 2022.

An application for a biannual (2021-22) SV project (“Catacombs and their settlements in South-Eastern Sicily (4th-6th c. AD). Archaeological researches 2021-22 / Katakomby a související osídlení v jihovýchodní Sicílii ve 4. – 6. st. Archeologické výzkumy 2021-22”) has been submitted at the FF UHK in February 2021. It has been evaluated positively and awarded funding, leading to the organization and completion of the 2021 archaeological expedition in Sicily.

Popis změn v řešení projektu / Descripton of project changes:

In spite of the pandemic quickly deteriorating during most of 2020, the project has been carried out successfully with a limited amount of modifications.

In the first place, the COVID situation reduced the workforce available for the fieldwork. In February 2020, before the COVID, more than a dozen of students expressed their interest in participating in the expedition. In the end, however, only four of them managed to participate. We had to adapt our strategy accordingly, so we focused on the excavation and documentation, leaving the programmed surface surveys for the next campaigns.

In the second place, the timetable for the preparation of the international project has been delayed because of COVID, rendering difficult to organize a reliable project timetable with international partners. That is the main reason why, in view of the evolution of the situation in April 2020, it was decided to apply for the GAČR project.

In addition, the COVID situation is the main cause of the surcharges on the project budget.

The project-related publication output not yet submitted in 2020 has been further developed in the frame of the new SV project “Catacombs and their settlements in South-Eastern Sicily (4th-6th c. AD). Archaeological researches 2021-22 / Katakomby a související osídlení v jihovýchodní Sicílii ve 4. – 6. st. Archeologické výzkumy 2021-22” (see next section).

Stav výstupu: rozpracovaný x dokončený x přijatý redakcí k otištění x otištěn (připojte potvrzení z redakce)/ Project outputs: unfinished x finished x accepted for publishing x published (attach the editorial board confirmation):

The project application stated that the first publishing activity was scheduled to 2021, and that most of the papers were expected to be published first in 2022-23. The great success of the excavation campaign and the good organization of the documentation and the data recording have however speeded up the process, enabling to submit one article to a relevant journal:

- J. Pinar Gil: *Chiese, mausolei e corredi funerari: tendenze generali e casi particolari tra tardoantico e alto medioevo*. Accepted for publication in *Hortus Artium Medievalium* (Jsc).

As for the rest of the scheduled publication output, it has been developed within the new SV project “Catacombs and their settlements in South-Eastern Sicily (4th-6th c. AD). Archaeological researches 2021-22 / Katakomy a související osídlení v jihovýchodní Sicílii ve 4. – 6. st. Archeologické výzkumy 2021-22”.

- J. Pinar Gil, M. Pleska: *Two unusual funerary deposits from the Migration Period at hypogeum D, Modica–Scorrione W (prov. Ragusa, Sicily)*. Submitted to *Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt* (Jimp).

- J. Pinar Gil, M. Pleska: *Using and reusing rock-cut architecture. The stratigraphical sequence at Modica–Scorrione W, hypogeum D (5th-8th century CE)*. Submitted to *Journal of Roman Archaeology* (Jimp).

Výsledky publikační činnosti v OBD/RIV (uved'te ID číslo záznamu v OBD) / Project publishing outputs in OBD/RIV (enter the ID number in OBD):

No output has been yet published.

Project costs:

	PŘIDĚLENÉ / ALLOCATED BUDGET	ČERPANÉ / EXPENDED BUDGET
Osobní náklady / Personnel costs	5.000	5.000
Materiální náklady / Equipment and Consumables	67.500	64.558,8
Služby / Services	0	0
Travel costs / Cestovné	250.080	270.741,2

CELKEM / TOTAL COSTS	325.300	340.300
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Zdůvodnění všech změn v průběhu a účelu čerpání finančních prostředků / Justification of all changes in expansion:

The spreading of the covid-19 pandemics and the mobility restrictions deriving from it had a negative impact on the project finances: owing to the new security rules and to the more restricted number of students participating in the campaign, Pinar's and Pleska's accommodation in Ispica became more expensive than expected. Likewise, the car rental has also become more expensive than any previous estimate. In addition, the fieldwork tools provided by the Italian partners were not sufficient to cover the needs of the expedition, so further investment in material has been necessary.

Osobní náklady / Personnel costs:

Scholarship for Miroslav Pleska: 5.000 czk

Materiální náklady / Equipment and Consumables:

Cameras, spotlights and accessories: 33.247,8 czk

Laptop: 27.815 czk

Laser measuring devices: 3.496 czk

Služby / Services: -

Cestovné /Travel costs:

Ferry Genova-Palermo-Genoa J. Pinar Gil: 343,55€

Ferry Genova-Palermo-Genoa M. Pleska: 303,95€

Car rental: 2.055,09€

Fuel: 319,48€

Accommodation J. Pinar Gil: 1.100€

Accommodation M. Pleska: 800€

Meal allowance J. Pinar Gil: 3.116,67€

Meal allowance M. Pleska: 2.550€

Fieldwork tools: 250,66€

Vyúčtování dotace – popište hospodaření s prostředky a přiložte výsledovku EIS Magion / Expansion Report:

Univerzita Hradec Králové				Výsledovka po účtech s pohyby		
				Pohyby za období 2020 / 01 - 12		
	Pracoviště:	****		Všechny vybrané analytiky		
	Činnost:	****		Všechny vybrané analytiky		
	Fullcost:	*****		Všechny vybrané analytiky		
	Zakázka:	2111		SV Catacombs and their settlements...		
	Podzakázka:	***		Všechny podzakázky		
Účet	Název účtu			Má dátí		Daí ek k 2020 / 12
501	008	Spotřeba materiálu DHIM DU				
		Počáteční stav		0,00		
	MAJ/0307/00013/20		14.09.2020	5 990,00	0,00	000020407 SADA SVĚTĚ
	MAJ/0307/00013/20		14.09.2020	19 989,00	0,00	000020406 FOTOAPARÁ
	MAJ/0307/00013/20		14.09.2020	33 656,00	0,00	000020405 POČÍTAČ NO
	MAJ/0307/00017/20		24.09.2020	1 398,00	0,00	000020514 MĚŘIČ LASEI
	MAJ/0307/00017/20		24.09.2020	2 098,00	0,00	000020515 DÁLKOMĚR I
	ZAV/0311/00436/20		04.09.2020	1 427,80	0,00	Statív pro světlo dle DNS
501	008	Spotřeba materiálu DHIM DU		64 558,80	0,00	64 558,80
501		Spotřeba materiálu		64 558,80	0,00	64 558,80
512	001	Cestovné zahraniční zaměstnanci DU				
		Počáteční stav		0,00		
	CES/0302/00037/20		07.12.2020	2 624,78	0,00	Pinar Gil,IT,Ragusa,30.0
	CES/0302/00037/20		07.12.2020	178 280,97	0,00	Pinar Gil,IT,Ragusa,30.0
512	001	Cestovné zahraniční zaměstnanci DU		180 905,75	0,00	180 905,75
512		Cestovné		180 905,75	0,00	180 905,75
545	001	Kurzové ztráty DU				
		Počáteční stav		0,00		
	CES/0302/00037/20		07.12.2020	4 047,38	0,00	0000000000 SV/ Gil/ Rag
	CES/0302/00037/20		07.12.2020	17,07	0,00	0000000000 SV/ Gil/ Rag
545	001	Kurzové ztráty DU		4 064,45	0,00	4 064,45
545		Kurzové ztráty		4 064,45	0,00	4 064,45
549	006	Jiné ostatní náklady mimoř.stip. DU				
		Počáteční stav		0,00		
	ZAV/0346/00172/20		08.09.2020	60 000,00	0,00	záloha na cestu
	ZAV/0346/00172/20		08.09.2020	5 000,00	0,00	odměna za práci v projei
	ZAV/0346/00207/20		08.10.2020	23 440,00	0,00	dopl. za badatelskou ces
549	006	Jiné ostatní náklady mimoř.stip. DU		88 440,00	0,00	88 440,00
549	093	Pojištění cestovní				
		Počáteční stav		0,00		
	ZAV/0916/00110/20		07.10.2020	2 331,00	0,00	Pinar Gil Joan
549	093	Pojištění cestovní		2 331,00	0,00	2 331,00
549		Jiné ostatní náklady		90 771,00	0,00	90 771,00
		Náklady celkem		340 300,00	0,00	340 300,00
691	006	Provoz.dotace věda MŠMTspecifický výzkum				
		Počáteční stav			0,00	
	MAN/0910/00009/20		17.02.2020	0,00	340 300,00	Specifický výzkum 2020
691	006	Provoz.dotace věda MŠMTspecifický výzkum		0,00	340 300,00	340 300,00
691		Přijaté přís. mezi zúčt.mezi org.slož.		0,00	340 300,00	340 300,00
		Výnosy celkem		0,00	340 300,00	340 300,00
		Hospodářský výsledek k 2020 / 12:				0,00
		Náklady za vybrané:		340 300,00		340 300,00
		Výnosy za vybrané:			340 300,00	340 300,00
		Hospodářský výsledek za vybrané k 2020 / 12:				0,00
		Výběrová kritéria (omezení sestavy se řídí právy uživatele prasiiv1 (uvedena v závorce))				
	Pracoviště:	(03**)				
	Činnost:	(***)				
	Fullcost:					
	Zakázka:	2111 (*)				
	Podzakázka:					

Joan Pinar Gil

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joan Pinar Gil', written in a cursive style.

In Hradec Králové, 07.01.22

Name and signature of researcher