

VÝROČNÍ ZPRÁVA PROJEKTU SPECIFICKÉHO VÝZKUMU 2022/ THE ANNUAL SV PROJECT REPORT 2022

NÁZEV PROJEKTU/ PROJECT TITLE:

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.

DOBA TRVÁNÍ PROJEKTU / PROJECT DURATION : 1 ROK / 1 YEAR

2 roky / 2 years

ŘEŠITELSKÝ TÝM / TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS:

Mgr. Joan Pinar Gil, PhD

Mgr. Miroslav Pleska

POPIS A SPLNĚNÍ CÍLŮ ŘEŠENÍ/ DESCRIPTION AND FULFILLMENT OF PROJECTS GOALS:

1. Preparation of the 2022 archaeological expedition (April-September)

The preparation of the expedition included the purchase of the additional equipment for fieldwork activities and for data storage and the recruitment of the students. As a result, a team consisting of students from UHK (5), Mainz (4), Zagreb (2) and Brno (1) students under the joint supervision of myself and Dr. Beghelli from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz was assembled. The purchase and recruitment processes were closed by July.

From July to September, the travel, accommodation and logistics of the expedition, including safety rules and prevention of eventual anti-Covid mobility restrictions, were set up.

An extra effort must be made between July and October in order to ensure the feasibility and the suitable conditions for the fieldwork activities, as the Heritage Office in Ragusa suddenly changed their policy regarding safety standards on excavation sites.

2. Fieldwork: excavation in the Late Antique hypogea H, J and I, Scorrione W, Modica (October-November)

The excavations went on uninterruptedly from October 3rd to December 2nd. The activity was focused inside the hypogea H, I and J, as well as outside the hypogeum C, excavated in 2021. The excavation team had to face many difficulties derived from unreported earthworks by the private ownership of the site. As a result, the bottom of the canyon in which the catacombs are set had been filled with dirt, the trampling surface in that area had thus been elevated of 1'5 m approximately. That severely hindered the natural drainage of the site. As a result, the funerary chambers now get flooded after every rainfall and need several days or weeks to fully dry out, even with help of mechanical dewatering pumps. This fact has greatly slowed down the work schedule and rendered the fieldwork more difficult and unpleasant. I addition, the cleaning of the outermost part of the ceiling of the hypogeum H revealed that it was strongly degraded and potentially dangerous, so it was decided to reschedule the excavation of the inner spaces of the hypogeum until the security of the workers could be assured.

The excavation team, however, succeeded in achieving most of the scheduled goals, including the full excavation of the hypogea I and J and of the external spaces of hypogeum H, as well as the opening of a trench in front of the hypogeum C, leading to the identification of new structures. Although this sector of the site (western wall) appears to be more altered and degraded than the hypogea excavated in 2020 and 2021, the amount of recorded archaeological data is rich and varied, and confirms again the potential of the site as a reference for Mediterranean rock-cut cemeteries.

The unearthed finds include layers and graves, artefacts (pottery shards, glassware, bone artefacts, coins, worked stones). They are very consistent with the finds from 2020 and 2021. Particularly noteworthy are the glassware finds, that had delivered new typologies in the site.

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

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 and glass shards, metal objects, stone items and bones. These activities have been supported by short presentations introducing to the students the methods and tools to be used.

In addition, inspections of rock-cut sites to be investigated in the near future have been made. They have been carried out at Modica – Malvasia/Michelica, Ispica – San Marco and Chiaramonte Gulfi.

4. Scientific contacts, research planning and meetings (May-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. Saverio Scerra) and with scholars and restorers from Museums and Universities of the region. Dr. Michelle Beghelli (University of Mainz/University of Zagreb) has taken part in the expedition, leading the team of Mainz students. Unfortunately, the sudden passing of Dr. Beghelli's mother forced her to take a long leave of absence. Prof. Vasiliki Tsamakda (University of Mainz), who is co-heading with Dr. Pinar Gil a Research Linkage project of the Humboldt Foundation from 01/01/2022, hosted in Mainz a workshop devoted to the ongoing investigations in South-Eastern Sicily. An application for an ambitious bilateral project is already in the making. Prof. Jaroslav Jiřík (Charles University) visited the expedition and took part in the inspections at Malvasia/Michelica.

5. Preparation and submission of publications and dissemination activities (April-December)

As said, a quick and efficient documentation of the fieldwork finds has led to produce the first published output in schedule, in spite of the numerous problems faced both in 2021 and 2022 (the major ones being, of course, Dr. Sammito's loss and Dr. Beghelli's long leave of absence, as they were expected to be among the main authors of many scheduled publications). Three papers have been submitted to international journals (Kratkie Soobščenia Instituta Archeologii, Študijné Zvesti Archeologického Ústavu SAV and Archeologia Medievale). One of these papers has been already published. In addition, two further papers have been published in books (Hyblae 1) and conference proceedings (Frontovoe). Four further articles targeting significant journals are in the making and should be ready for submission before the end of 2023.

PODROBNÝ POPIS ZMĚN V ŘEŠENÍ PROJEKTU/ DESCRIPITON OF PROJECT CHANGES:

In spite of personal issues of several project partners, adverse weather conditions and unreported changes in the conditions of the site, the main aims and structure of the project underwent no significant change.

These setbacks have, however, slightly delayed the work schedule. Thus, some planned outputs have not been yet submitted for publication, and the fieldwork did not manage to finish the excavation and documentation of all the hypogea at Scorrione, as planned. It is expected that all these disadjustments will be corrected throughout 2023.

STAV A DRUH VÝSTUPU/ STATE AND TYPE OF PUBLISHING OUTPUTS:

Author	Title of the output	Name of	Type of	State (in	ID in OBD
		Publisher	output -	progress /	(only
			Metodika	finished / in	published
			17+ ¹ (Jimp	peer review /	or
			/ Jsc / Jost	accepted for	accepted
			/ B / C aj.)	publishing /	for
				published)	publishing)
	Mogil'nik s peščernymi				
	sklepami v Modike-Scorrione	Kratkie			
	Zapad (Ragusa, Italia) i period	Soobščenia			
	velikogo pereselenia narodov	Instituta			
Pinar, Pleska	na Sicilii	Archeologii	Jimp	Published	43879533
		Hyblaea 1.			
		Ricerche			
		archeologiche			
Pinar, Sammito,		negli Iblei.			
Scerra, Beghelli,		British			
Criscione,		Archaeological			
Fiorilla, Pleska,	Modica RG. Notizie	Reports,			
Huk'elová	preliminari sugli scavi della	International			
Schmidtová	catacomba di C.da Scorrione	Series. Oxford.	С	Published	43879540
	Migration Period finds from	Mogil'nik			
	the hypogeal cemetery at	rimskogo			
Pinar, Pleska,	Modica–Scorrione W	vremeni			
Beghelli	(Ragusa, Sicily)	Frontovoe 3:	D	Published	43879536

¹ Definition of types of output:

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		varvary na		
		granicach		
		Imperii. Russian		
		Academy of		
		Sciences.		
		Moscow.		
	Using and reusing rock-cut			
	architecture. The			
	stratigraphical sequence at			
	Modica–Scorrione W,			
	hypogeum D (5th-8th	Archeologia		
Pinar, Pleska	century CE)	Medievale	Jsc	Submitted
	Who was buried at the			
	catacombs of Scorrione?			
Huk'elová,	First anthropological results	Študijné Zvesti		
Schmidtová,	from the excavation season	Archeologického		
Pinar, Scerra	2020-2021 – a short report	Ústavu SAV	Jimp	Submitted
	Spatial organization and			
Pinar, Pleska,	visual appearance of Sicilian			
Tsamakda	catacombs	-	Jsc	In progress
Schmidtová,				
Huk'elová,	Diet and provenance of the			
Fernandes,	community buried at			
Klontza, Pinar	Scorrione	-	Jimp	In progress
	The grave structures at			
Beghelli, Pinar,	Scorrione: production, use			
Pleska	and reuse	-	Jimp	In progress
	Results of the excavations			
Pinar, Pleska	2020-22 at Scorrione	-	Jimp	In progress

PROJECT COSTS:

	PŘIDĚLENÉ/ ALLOCATED BUDGET	ČERPANÉ/ EXPENDED BUDGET
Osobní náklady/ Personal costs	10.000 czk	10.000 czk
Materiální náklady/ Material costs	6.500 czk	6.185 czk
Služby/ Services	5.000 czk	0
Cestovné/ Travel costs	278.180 czk	286.222 czk
CELKEM/ TOTAL COSTS	299.680 czk	302.407 czk

PODROBNÉ ZDŮVODNĚNÍ ÚČELU ČERPÁNÍ FINANČNÍCH PROSTŘEDKŮ/ JUSTIFICATION OF USE OF FUNDING

The project budget has been somewhat altered in its travelling costs due to the inflation context. In particular, the raising in the price of the energy has made both the fuel for the car and the accommodation more expensive than in former years. These extra expenses have been partially

compensated by giving up on the rental of a mechanical excavator, thus relying exclusively on the manpower of the UHK excavation team.

Concerning the material costs, the funds have been devoted to the purchase of new spotlights for the excavations, as some of the spotlights purchased in former years started to work less effectively.

Osobní náklady / Personal costs:

Scholarship M. Pleska: 10.000 czk

Materiální náklady / Material costs:

Spotlights: 6.185 czk

Služby / Services: -

Cestovné /Travel costs:

Ferry Genova-Palermo-Genoa J. Pinar Gil: 293,06 € Ferry Genova-Palermo-Genoa M. Pleska: 401,625 €

Car rental: 2.054,60 €

Fuel: 817,42 €

Accommodation J. Pinar Gil: 1.100 € Accommodation M. Pleska: 900 € Meal allowance J. Pinar Gil: 3.350 € Meal allowance M. Pleska: 2.847,50 €

Fieldwork tools: 362,80 €

COSTS REPORT EIS Magion:

Výsledovka po účtech s pohyby

DH-P 00023441
DII-I 00020441
.12.22
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Fullcost:

Fullcost: Zakázka: Podzakázka:

2114 (*|[4895|4896])

In Hradci Králové, 04/01/2023

Male