## SECTION 9. Conclusions for this phase

The first phase of the project was meant to offer to the research team a first orientation in the field, especially for the part of frontier which was south of Roşiori city. The line of Roman embankment – known in a large measure, even before departing on the field, due to orthophotos – was visited systematically, segment by segment[1]. The general state of preservation is poor (especially in the Danube grassland), a thing which might be connected to a construction particularity: whether it contains burned materials, and in what quantity. The area south of Băneasa village has unburned embankments (or with so slightly burned materials, that they are hard to observe), while the one north of Troian railway station – burned embankments, up to Bratcov Valley, where the unburned embankments appear again (a fact which is also actual, from the experience of the past years, on Dealul Scrioştea or in the grassland of Vedea, at Gresia).

We can establish a relation, be it provisory, between the burned embankments and the resource named forest, the area from the proximity of Danube being suspected of having been a forest steppe even since Antiquity, this suspicion being confirmed also by the Specht (1791) map, which was made before the systematic action of deforestation. The reasons why the Romans chose burned adobe as building material are quite numerous, even at an intuitive level: the embankments built with burned adobe have preserved a lot better than those in which this material seems to be missing (or is in very little quantities). It is also interesting the comparison between the embankments circling the forts and those that delimitate the boundary: at Putinei the frontier doesn't contain burned adobe, while on the fort its presence is obvious, even if not in large quantities. At Băneasa the proportion preserves: the frontier embankment has few burned adobe, visible thou, while the fort is abundantly made with material resistant to washing.

Until proven otherwise, this construction technique was, apparently, mastered in the very Romanian Plain[2], where there are quite many fortifications constructed in a similar manner, for Hallstatt and La Tène (MOSCALU 1979, ZIRRA 2011). This is an interesting testing of the Roman engineering ingenuity, which knew how to adapt to any geographic environment; moreover, the Romans knew how to learn from the local culture those elements which helped them to adapt[3].

The field missions have also targeted the watchtowers on the field, for which we have the same observation: they have survived materially, visible at the surface, when burned adobe was also used at the construction (like the situation south of Măldăeni hamlet), or if they were burned post-functioning (there are two such examples near Urlueni).

The Roman frontier presents a construction variant in the area between Urlui Valley and Dealul Scrioaştea. The eastern variant, which reaches all the way to the periphery of Roşiori city, was known on orthophotos; the western variant, much less evident, was searched because of the contradiction between what we were seeing and Polonic's assertions, at the end of the 19th century. Szathmári map has offered a suggestion, showing „a road that comes from nowhere", confirmed on the field as

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[1] With little exceptions, for instance the two kilometers between Troian station and Urlui Valley, because of the difficulties of access and because the unfavourable November weather didn't allowed exits in the field, on cross-country paths.

[2] Surely, the conclusion will have to be sustained, in the future, by a verification of literature data, on this particular specific aspect.

[3] What Romans have borrowed from the local cultures doesn't usually make the object of the comments made by historians, who are more preoccupied by the Roman legacy in provinces.

being the variant described by Polonic. A drone mission, west of the Hospital of Pneomo-phtysiology, has done all the rest, closing the track[4].

The two construction variants of the Roman frontier, near Roşiori, represents probably an alteration of the initial track; it is very likely that the western variant represents the original (it is the shortest), being subsequently re-framed with a development towards north-east, with the purpose of occupying the hill standing in our days above the city – an excellent observation post towards *barbaricum*.

In the area Mocanului Valley we even have a third variant, suggested by a road which … cuts the frontier embankment, a road that could not be but Roman (it has a perfectly straight line on more than 2 km). This episode could be connected to the first Roman establishment in western Muntenia, probably occasioned by the Dacian wars, at the beginning of the 2nd century.

The field research, coined as „linear field survey type", has brought to attention several areas of particular interest, defining several areas in which a systematic field survey would be beneficial, desirable, now or later. This is especially the case of those around the forts from Putineiu and Băneasa (the larger fort), for which there already are clues that we might find the proof about the existence of some civilian settlements, even if relatively small. To all these add the northern slope of Totiţa Valley, where we probably have a picket at a bridge crossing and, again, the area north-east of Mocanului Valley, an area in which a thorough geophysical research might reveal the pits of adobe burning – the basic building material.

The aerial research is a key component of this project. Two important stages were developed: the beginning of the accomplishment experiment for the acquisition of drone taken photos, namely two tests from four planned, and for the acquisition of vertical photos by plane. They will both have to be continued in the second phase of the research project.

In this stage we have also initiated two other key components, in the ensemble of the project strategy: the toponymy database – meant to cooperate at the re-composition of the environment for the reference area – and the pottery database, needed as referential base for the pottery gathered during field surveys.

At the chapter concerning dissemination – we promised an ISI article, but we produced two, both having as purpose the creation of international connections, especially on a subject – Roman frontiers and brand new technologies – which is of clear interest beyond our national borders. To all these we add our active presence at some international conferences.

In a single concluding phrase – we consider that we have reached our vital objectives, as they were planned, and we are confident in our ability of achieving the project in the best conditions if, of course, the financial conditions will remain at least as they are now.

[4] There is a preliminary suspicion (TEODOR 2013, 159, fig. 63), which was nevertheless far from being a certainty, needing a verification on the field.