

**Interreg  
Danube Region**



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# Kick-off Meeting

Day 1 – Welcome Day: partner presentations

**Kick-off Meeting – Day 1**

Krems, 28 April 2025

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# PP6 Belene Municipality

BULGARIA

Interreg  
Danube Region



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ROMAN LEGACY

**Belene is a municipality in Pleven Province, northern Bulgaria. It is located along the south bank of Danube river, by the border with Romania.**

**The administrative center of the area is the town of Belene.**



Belene Municipality prioritizes fostering tourism growth and increasing awareness of the area's historical landmarks, cultural assets, and natural attractions. With a proven track record in organizing tourism-related initiatives and events, the municipality now aims to expand its reach by strategically promoting the region's unique offerings. This effort will focus on drawing in visitors through targeted marketing of the project, highlighting its potential to enrich local heritage and community engagement.

Municipality's key advantage lies in cultivating enduring cross-border collaborations along the Danube River while enhancing its expertise in sustainable tourism. As a non-profit public institution, the municipality is positioned to channel the project's benefits directly toward residents and visitors alike. These efforts prioritize initiatives such as expanding ecotourism opportunities to diversify attractions, fostering intercultural understanding through exposure to Danube nations' traditions, and establishing collaborative networks. By focusing on these areas, the project not only enriches the region's appeal but also empowers local communities through shared knowledge and enduring international ties. Furthermore, the protection and preservation of native natural features and historical legacy are crucial.

Belene will serve as one of the key sites along the Cultural Route and will be utilized within the framework of the project. The municipality will carry out all related project activities and tools in its area, thereby enhancing its local Roman heritage.

Located on the banks of the Danube River in Belene Municipality, the ancient Roman fortress known as "Dimum" dates from the 1st to the 7th century. It is recognized as the oldest open customs house from Roman times in Northern Bulgaria. The fortress served as one of the major urban centers along the Danube and was the northernmost customs station during its period of operation. Throughout its history, Dimum underwent five restorations. The Municipality of Belene has restored and reconstructed part of the fortress wall and the western and southern towers in their 4<sup>th</sup>-century form. Ceramic artifacts from Dimum indicate that Slavo-Bulgarians inhabited the region in the 9th and 10th centuries.

The fortress was declared a monument of national importance in 1968.



Every summer, at the end of June Belene Municipality organizes the Danube River Festival. The holiday is associated with the international Danube River Day - June 29.

The main highlights of the program are:

1. Culinary competition "Danube Table", in which up to 10 teams participate, and their task is to prepare local dishes with Danube fish. A competent jury determines the three winners, who receive certificates and prizes.
2. Wish Boats – those wishing write messages-wishes on water-soluble paper, then they have to fold it themselves into the shape of a boat, which they will launch into the waters of the river in the hope of their wish coming true. With a boat in the middle of the Danube, all the paper boats are launched into the waters of the river.
3. Concerts, folk and modern dances



The associated strategic partner of Belene Municipality in the project is the NGO Council of Tourism – Svishtov. It is a pioneer in historical reenactments in Bulgaria in several different historical periods. The First Italian Legion – a historical reenactment group promotes ancient history and recreates the life of the Roman Legion in the 1st - 7th centuries AD. During its long presence along the Danube Limes to the Black Sea, its composition was regularly replenished by the local population. The First Italian Legion proudly stands as a recognized member of the European network for ancient reenactments, showcasing its extensive experience at major international festivals. The NGO established the Festival of Ancient Heritage "Eagle on the Danube," the first international ancient festival in our region and the Balkans. Held at the esteemed Roman legionary camp of Nove, near Svishtov, this festival has successfully hosted 18 editions, drawing participants from Italy, Romania, Spain, and beyond.



The NGO will play a pivotal role in developing tourism products and experiences that showcase the Roman legacy of the region. This may include designing themed tours, interpretive trails, and visitor centers that engage and enhance their understanding of the historical significance of the Danube Limes.

**Thank you for  
your attention!**

[www.interreg-danube.eu/projects/roman-legacy](http://www.interreg-danube.eu/projects/roman-legacy)

**Exploring the Roman Legacy: Creation of a theme region and cultural route along the Roman Danube Limes to empower the socio-economic development of shared European heritage**

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