

Excavations in Sarmizegetusa Regia. The State of the Art.

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The Late Iron Age Site of Grădiştea de Munte (county of Hunedoara) is identified with Sarmizegetusa Regia, the central-place of the Dacian kingdom of Decebalus.

Built in a mountain area in southern Transylvania and surrounded by several fortresses and civilian settlements, it had been excavated systematically since 1924, with different approaches and archaeological recording standards.

Nowadays, modern technology and investigation methods are contributing to increase both the quantity and the accuracy of archaeological data concerning the site: precise and complete mappings, geophysical investigations and other analysis are carried out.

The size and the complexity of the site are more than ever a challenge for the archaeologists. Priorities in choosing objectives to be excavated are to be set, as well as an important work of early recordings re-evaluation.

Most of all, the occupation patterns of the site have to be placed in a larger understanding of how and why Late Iron Age Temperate Europe's communities organized their settlements and landscapes.