

Following the Roman Road: Via Gabiniana from Salona to Klis (ViaG)

Lead researcher: assoc prof. Ivan Matijević (imatijev@ffst.hr), Odsjek za povijest

Project timeframe: January 2025. – December 2026.

Project goal:

During the Roman Empire, the basis for connecting cities with other parts of the province was roads. However, roads were much more than just a means of connection. Alongside them, monumental monuments and representative buildings were erected, and necropolises were organized. These material sources are today an inexhaustible source of data for reconstructing life in a city. Several road routes led from Salona, the capital of the Dalmatian province, one of which extended from the northeastern gate (the so-called Porta Andetria) towards the interior. This was the famous Via Gabiniana. The Via Gabiniana was a key communication in connecting Salona with the interior of Dalmatia. Numerous ancient monuments have been found alongside it. The road was used even after the time of late antiquity, and important medieval monuments were also built alongside it. Connecting two important early medieval sites from which the modern cities of Solin and Klis developed, it was slowly and almost completely covered by modern and then modern urbanization, which caused the marginalization of the Roman road and its almost disappearance. The importance of this road has long imposed the need for its research, but also for the research of the monuments discovered in its vicinity. The aim of the project is to observe in detail the multi-layered topography of this section of the Roman road, to show its extent and development, to interpret the discovered material and to determine it in a typological-chronological sense. The research will include all the findings published so far, and field surveys and new archaeological excavations are planned. The research carried out within the framework of this project would contribute to the understanding of the importance of this monument as a spatial entity and the individual findings discovered alongside it; all findings will be plotted on modern maps, which will facilitate the planning of its protection in the future.

Members of the project team:

- assist. prof. Ana Torlak, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split
- dr. sc. Zvonimir Forker, assistant, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split
- Frane Prpa, assistant, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split
- Ante Jurčević, associate