

Harbours from the Roman Period to the Middle Ages

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Archaeology and history of regional and supra-regional transportation systems

Since June 2012 the German Research Foundation (DFG) supports the scientific research of "Harbours from the Roman Period to the Middle Ages" within the grant of the Special Research Programme (known by its German acronym SPP-Schwerpunktprogramm).

After the first of two-three year periods the scholars within the individual research projects are able to present first results during the international conference in Kiel.

Interdisciplinarity

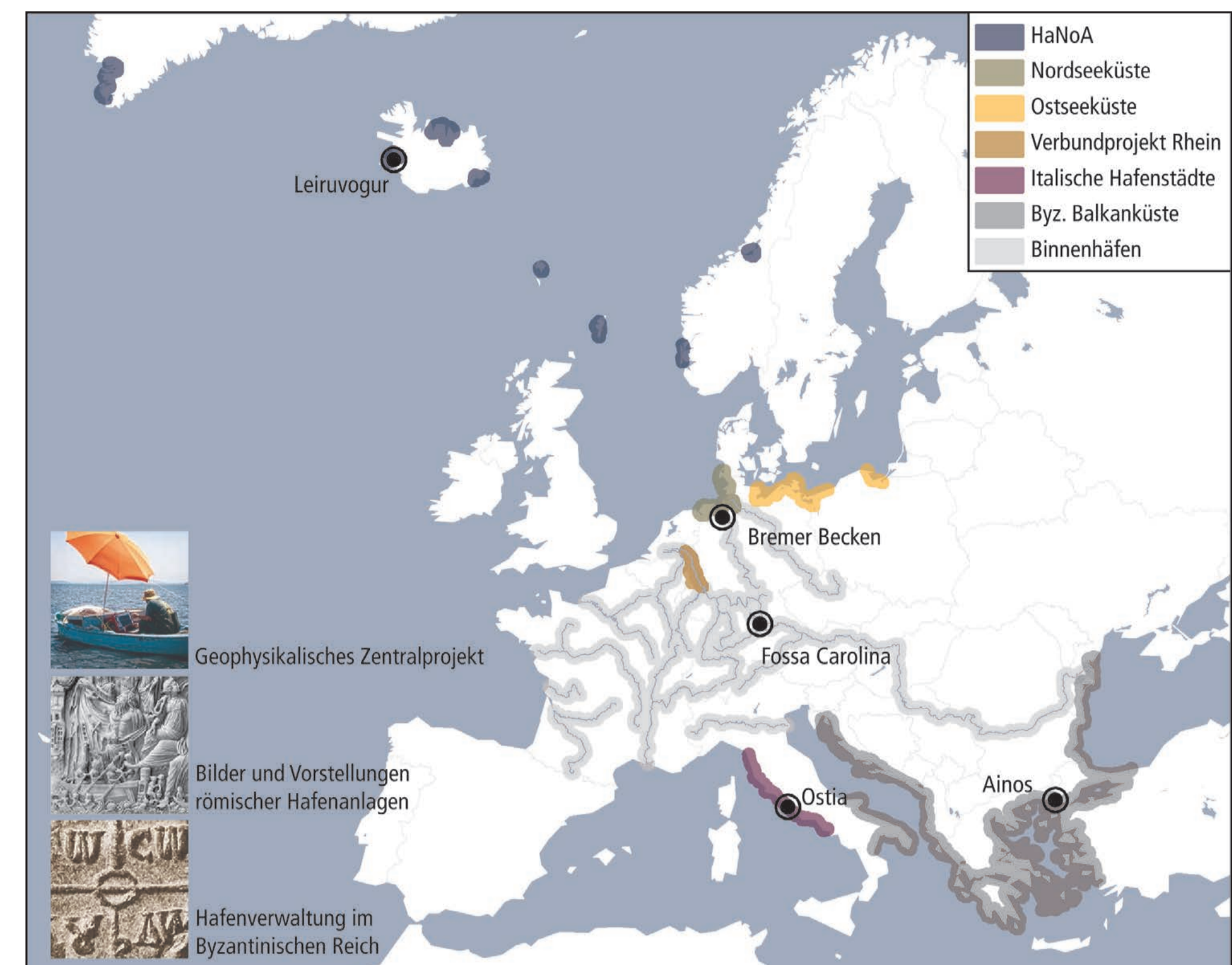
The interdisciplinary of the SPP is presented especially in the scientific approach of each individual project. Classical archaeology and the archaeology of the Roman provinces are equally represented as is Pre- and Early History and Byzantine studies. In addition, historical disciplines analyze ancient, byzantine, medieval and Nordic sources.

The geophysical central project provides methodological fundamental research on recent field work. In addition, geoarchaeology contributes to the understanding of change within the environmental history as well as completing the historical-archeological disciplines.

Research aim

The strength of the SPP lies within its wide geographical research area as well as in its time span ranging through several periods within the methodological varied research projects. Therefore, the aim of the SPP is to leave the small-scale analysis level and to understand harbours within a superordinate comparative analysis as highly complex systems, in which their system relevant component are defined and analyzed.

Next to the establishment of a standardized terminology and the clarification of the interaction of topography and harbour constructions lies the focus of the scientific research in the evaluation of the implications of the environmental history and in the analysis of economic and transportation areas.



The area of research of the SPP ranges from the North Atlantic islands to the North Sea and Baltic Sea coast, the European Rivers, the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Adriatic and Aegean Sea to the Black Sea coast.



A total of 34 institutes (Universities, Museums, State offices and research facilities) located in Germany, Austria and Iceland are participating.



Plenary meetings are organized annually to bring together all members of the program in order to define research objectives and to discuss recent research results like this meeting in Mainz in 2014 (RGZM; Iserhardt).

