Redes de comunicación y organización territorial del Imperio romano de occidente. Network Analysis aplicado al transporte en la antigüedad. RTI2018-098905-J-I00. (MCIU/AEI/FEDER, UE)

Principal Investigator(s):: Pau de Soto
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Studying the transport networks of Roman times represents understanding how Rome structured each of the Roman provinces, how the Romans located the construction of its cities and how they evolved, depending, in a very important part, on their situation within the transport network.

We know that the construction of infrastructures in Roman times responded to various economic (transport, production), political (propaganda, official mailing) and territorial (organization) objectives. Determine the impact of these motivations can only be achieved from a detailed and global knowledge of the communications network, its evolution and its operation.

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The Viator-e project is designed to analyse the social, political and economic repercussions of the construction of transport infrastructures during several periods in the Roman Empire.

The analysis of historical transportation networks is based on three main aspects:

- **Documentation of the infrastructures.** It represents the first step of the project in which all the elements that make up the network are collected, digitized and disseminated.
- **Analysis of the structure of the transport network.** From the knowledge of the network, it is possible to analyse how it is configured by quantifying the connectivity of the different urban centres.
- **Analysis of the transport network functionality.** Thanks to historical knowledge about transport costs and speeds, it is possible to create models that evaluate the costs (in time and cost) of the transport of goods through the network

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Research

Viator-e will collect and study all the published information related to Roman roads of the Western Roman Empire



Digitisation

In the next 3 years, all the Roman roads of the Western Roman Empire will be digitised and published online.



Networking

Viator-e has been conceived as a meeting point where all the researchers about Roman roads can get in contact and can share their methodologies and data.

PARTNER PROJECTS

- **MERCATOR-E**. European Commission Funding (Project 706260-MSCA | H2020).

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“Quantifying the impact of transport infrastructures: network analysis applied to the diachronically study of the Iberian peninsula (from Roman times to XIXth Century)”



- **ITINER-E**. Pelagios Commons RDG (Univ. Exeter).
  “A resource development project that will confront a unique challenge in the gazetteer eco-system: a gazetteer of historical roads to support the creation of linked open road datasets.”

