

Report on the outcomes of a presentation and participation in a Dissemination Conference¹

Action number: CA22145

Grantee name: Oksana Ruchynska

Conference Details

Conference title: Eighth International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities Dedicated to the Memory of Gocha R. Tsetskhladze

Conference web-page: <https://icbsa2026.archeologia.uw.edu.pl/>

Conference venue²: in-person

Accepted oral contribution details

Title of the presentation: Game Boards and the Cultural Context of Play in Chersonesos Taurica

Co-authors:

Other details of the presentation: SESSION 3: New powers in the Black Sea region: Romans, Byzantines, Goths and Huns (Thursday, September 17th)

Outcome of the conference participation

Description of the outcome of the conference presentation, including contacts made and potential for future collaborations.

(max. 500 word)

The participation in the Eighth International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities, held in Warsaw on 13–19 September 2026, resulted in the successful dissemination of the research perspectives of COST Action CA22145 GameTable to an international audience of specialists in Black Sea archaeology, ancient history, epigraphy and cultural heritage.

The presentation “Game Boards and the Cultural Context of Play in Chersonesos Taurica” focused on archaeological evidence for gaming practices from Chersonesos Taurica and examined game boards within their broader cultural, social and historical contexts. The presentation demonstrated the potential of gaming evidence for the study of cultural interaction, social practices and cultural change in the ancient Black Sea region. It also highlighted the relevance of the GameTable approach, which brings together archaeological, historical, epigraphic and interdisciplinary perspectives in the study of ancient games and gaming practices.

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the Grant Holder Manager to verify the grant documents compliance and proceed with the payment.

² For an online conference, specify virtual participation; for hybrid conferences, specify whether it is an in-person or virtual participation.

The presentation generated interest and discussion among researchers working on the archaeology and cultural history of the Black Sea region. In particular, the Congress provided an opportunity to establish and strengthen professional contacts with specialists from different countries and research institutions:

Georgian National Museum, Tbilisi (Besik Lortkipanidze, Nikoloz Murgulia), Sofia University "St.Kliment Ohridski" (Bulgaria), Faculty of History, Department of Archaeology (Daniela Stoyanova), Varna Regional Museum of History, Bulgaria (Elina Mircheva), French School at Athens, Greece (Alexandre Baralis), Düzce University (Türkiye), Department of Archaeology, Classical Archaeology Division (Umut Bostanci), Renmin University of China (Liu Shumeng).

An important outcome of the participation is the planned dissemination of the research through the Congress Proceedings, which are expected to be published by Archaeopress (Oxford). The publication will provide a durable and citable academic record of the research presented at the Congress and will further increase the visibility of both the study of gaming practices in the Northern Black Sea region and the GameTable COST Action.

The Congress participation has also already resulted in further dissemination opportunities. Following the Congress, I was invited to participate in a panel on the Black Sea and Caucasus being prepared by Dr Richard Kendall and Dr Brendan Knight for the Classical Association Conference in London, 9–11 April 2027. I was also invited to give the presentation at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. These invitations demonstrate that the research presented at the Congress has generated interest beyond the immediate conference and provide opportunities to communicate the GameTable perspective to additional academic audiences.

Overall, the conference participation strengthened the international visibility of the research on ancient games and gaming practices in the Northern Black Sea region, expanded the professional network relevant to GameTable, and created concrete opportunities for further dissemination and collaboration.

Acknowledgement of inclusion of necessary supporting documents to claim the grant

I confirm that the following documents have been uploaded on e-COST as an integral part of this report:

- the certificate of conference attendance issued by the conference organiser.
- the programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee.