

PRESS RELEASE

NORTH LEBANON, FIFTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN: PHOENICIAN SITES FOUND ON THE COAST

The discovery expands the area considered key for the study of the Phoenician world

In 5 years 120 sites identified between the coast and the internal plain

Udine, November 28, 2021 – The Northern Lebanon Project – a joint project authorized by the Directorate General of Antiquities and directed by Dr Marco Iamoni (University of Udine) and Dr May Haider (Lebanese University - Third Branch Tripoli), with the participation of the Institut Français du Proche Orient of Beirut, has concluded its fifth archaeological season.

Thanks to financial support provided by the University of Udine, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Municipality of Amioun, the Italian-Lebanese mission was able to examine both the inland and coastal sectors of the survey area, with significant discoveries especially in the vicinity of Qalhat, a strategic crossroad between the coast and the inner plain of Koura, where several settlements have been identified and mapped.

Further discoveries on the coast are characterised by the presence of Phoenician artefacts, an aspect which underlines the importance of the area of Koura for the investigation of the Phoenician culture.

The next archaeological campaign is planned for June 2022 and aims to extend the investigations conducted thus far in the Koura area and to start a programme of systematic dissemination of the results obtained.