

13th Annual Meeting of the European Coin Find Network (ECFN) and Nomisma.org

15-18 September 2026 · University of Bari

INTERPRETING BYZANTINE COIN FINDS AT SCALE

Social Network Analysis, GIS,
and Artificial Intelligence

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Dataset	ECFN 2025 London	ECFN 2026 Bari	Increase
Coins	≈ 225,000	276,904	+23.1%
Findspots	≈ 5,000	7,625	+52.5%
Sources	≈ 600	765	+27.5%

FILTER ▼ FINDSPOT NAME Georgia 1989 | Corinth Excavations, Greece, 1896--1929 (2) X

2 Objects List  Map  Network  Chart  Start Over 



A counterexample: many coins, fewer issuing authorities

Findspot	Number of coins	Number of issuing authorities	Comment
Georgia 1989	259	48	—
Corinth Excavations	5,608	45	More than twenty times as many coins... but fewer authorities.





GIORGIO

The number of coins alone cannot explain the number of issuing authorities.



CHATGPT

Maybe a findspot contains many issuing authorities because its coins cover a very long chronological period.



FILTER



FINDSPOT NAME

Excavations at Saraçhane in Istanbul

1 041 Objects

List



Map



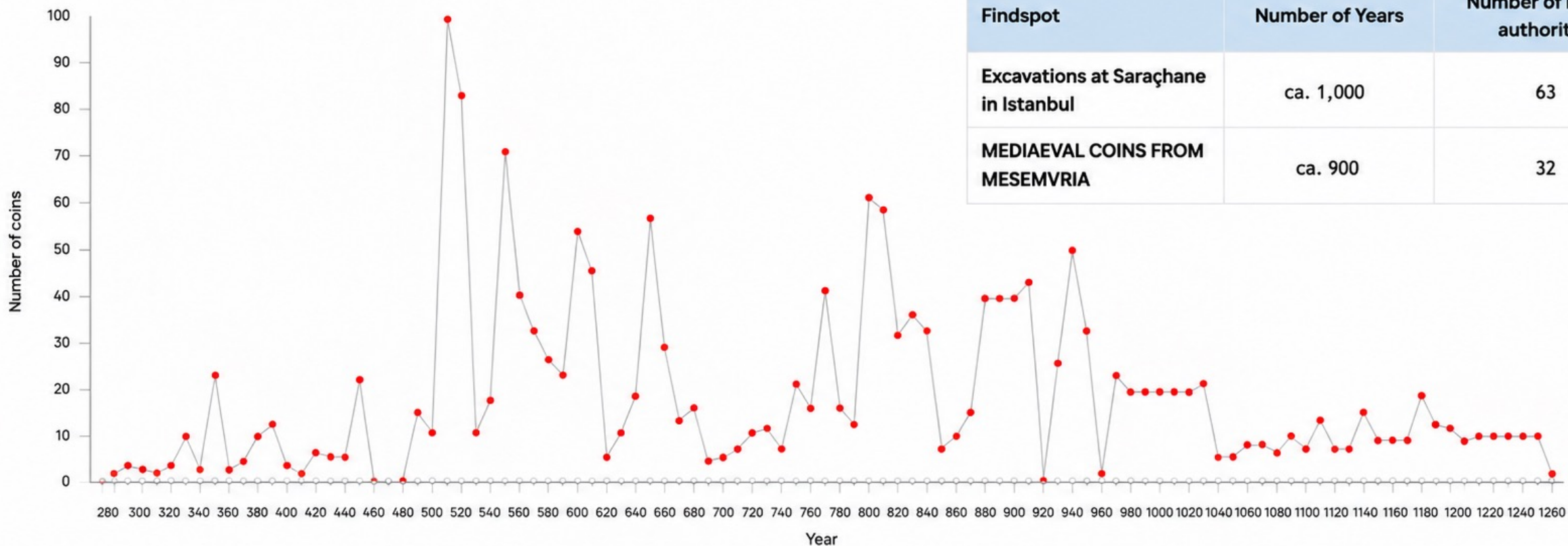
Network



Chart



Start Over



Findspot	Number of Years	Number of issuing authorities
Excavations at Saraçhane in Istanbul	ca. 1,000	63
MEDIAEVAL COINS FROM MESEMVRIA	ca. 900	32

01-01-286

01-01-1282



01-01-286



01-01-1282

1

year

|>|



View Selection



CHATGPT
Perhaps...

Geography?

Kind of findspot?

Denominations?

Metals?

Diversity?

Similar profiles?

Unusual findspots?

...

A METHOD OF INVESTIGATION EMERGED





GIORGIO

What can you see?



CHATGPT

Are the East Asia finds simply fewer?
Or are they also different?



FILTER



Tools

	 GOLD	 # DENOMINATIONS	 COMMENT
 EAST ASIA	100%	2	Mainly solidi and bracteates
 EUROPE beyond border	22%	> 40	More than 40 different denomination groups

FILTER



MACROAREA

Multiple (2) ▾

317 Objects

List



Map



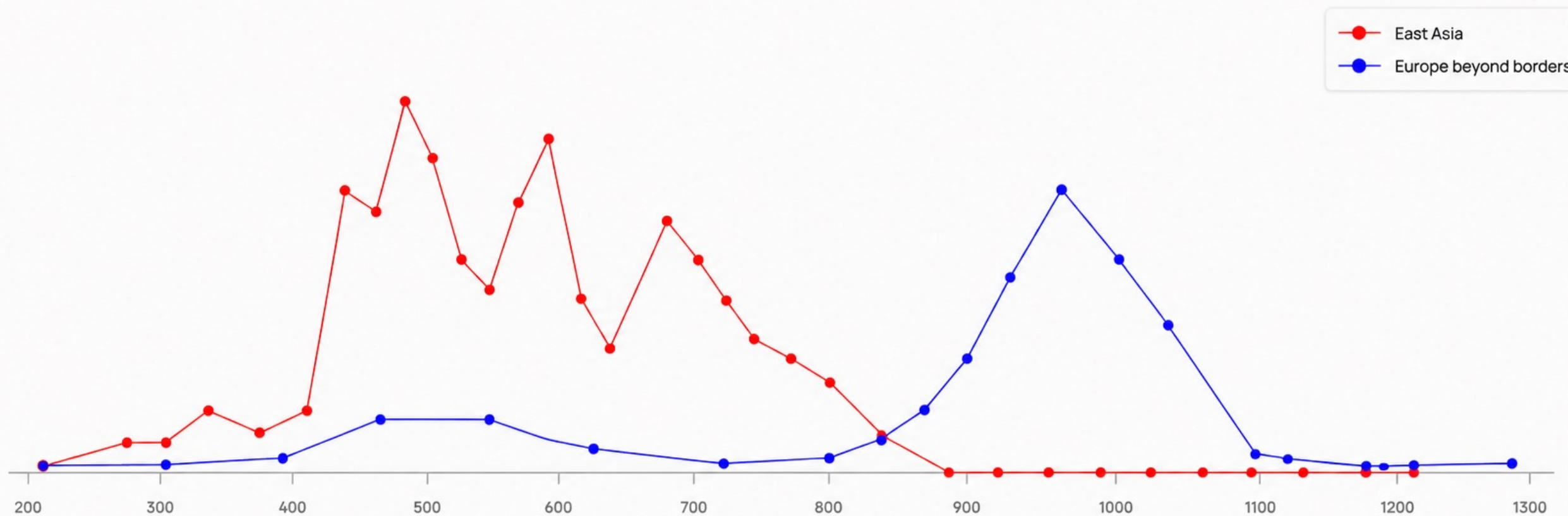
Network



Chart



Start Over



01-01-253

01-01-1354



01-01-253

01-01-1354

1

year ▾

|>| ▾



View Selection

THE QUESTION I **DID NOT** ASK



GIORGIO

What is your historical interpretation?



CHATGPT

The presence of multiple issuing authorities at this findspot likely reflects a complex historical context. It may indicate a strategic location along important trade routes, where different political powers interacted over time. The coin evidence suggests a prolonged period of use, possibly linked to shifting control, economic exchange, or military activity. This pattern is consistent with other sites in the region and highlights the findspot's role in wider networks of circulation and influence.

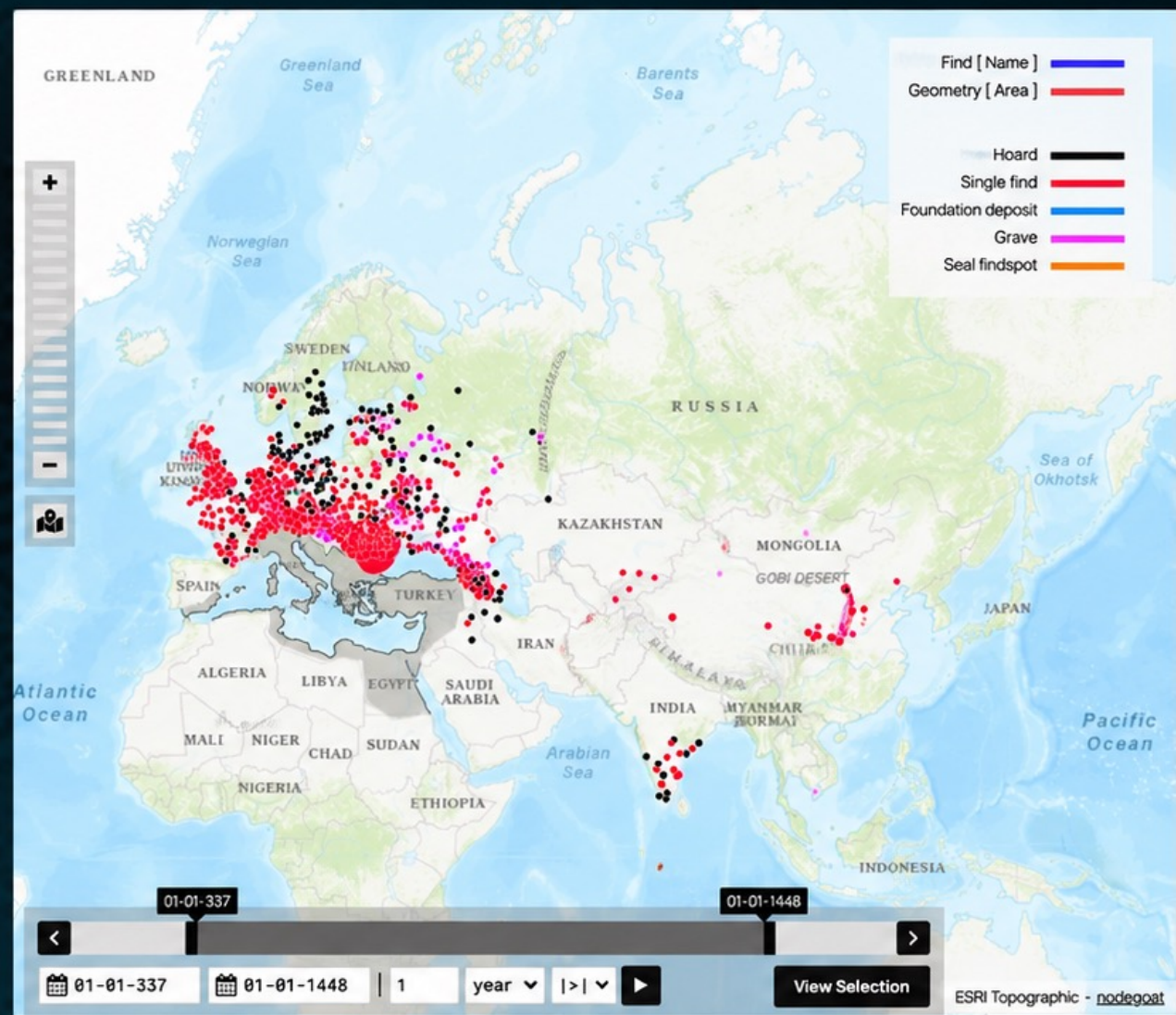
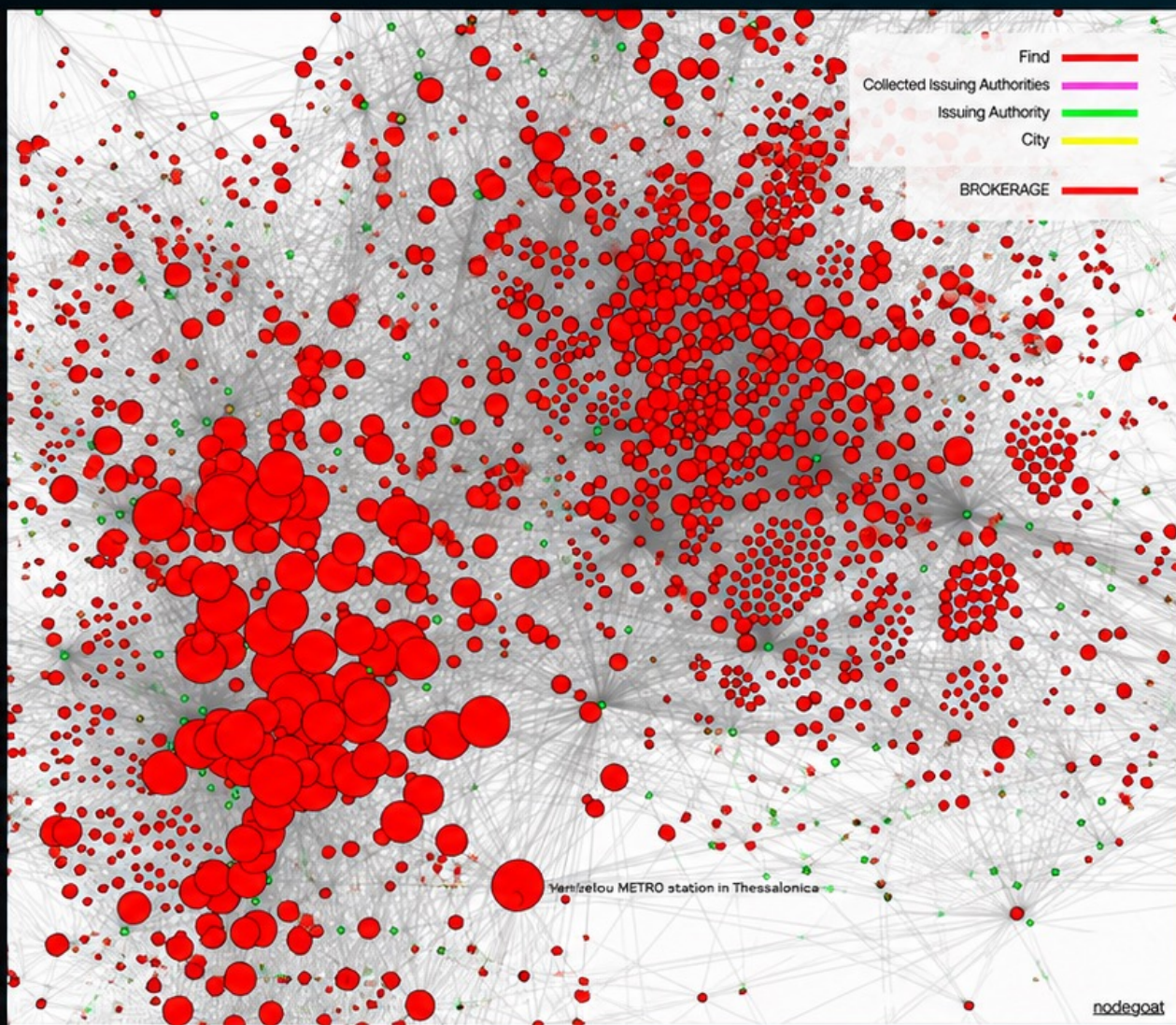


Scale

sometimes creates complexity.

AI

can help us decode this complexity.



**I want one of you
to stand up and say:**

“I have a research question.”



<https://byzantine.units.it/en/>

Findspots -> Issuing authorities scenario :

<https://byzantinefind.units.it/viewer.p/83/3633/scenario/111/soc/>

Beyond borders scenario: <https://byzantinefind.units.it/viewer.p/83/3633/scenario/52/geo/>

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BACKUP



- Find
- Collected Issuing Authorities
- Issuing Authority
- City

BROKERAGE

Nodes: 2763 Links: 1252

Layout complete: 100%

Force

Venizelou METRO station in Thessalonica

01-01-337

01-01-1460



01-01-337



01-01-1460

1

day

|>|



View Selection



GIORGIO

What can you see?



CHATGPT

I see a very large and dense network.



GIORGIO

Why some red nodes are much larger than others?



CHATGPT

The larger red nodes are finds connected to **more issuing authorities**.

So, the larger the red node, the greater the number of different issuing authorities represented in that find.



GIORGIO

Why do some findspots contains more issuing authorities than others?



CHATGPT

Several explanations are possible.
A findspot may cover a **longer chronological period**, contain **more coins**, or reflect **greater monetary diversity**.



GIORGIO

Could the number of coins be one possible explanation?



CHATGPT

Yes. A findspot containing more coins has more opportunities to include coins issued by different authorities.

But we would need to test whether **more coins actually correspond to more issuing authorities.**

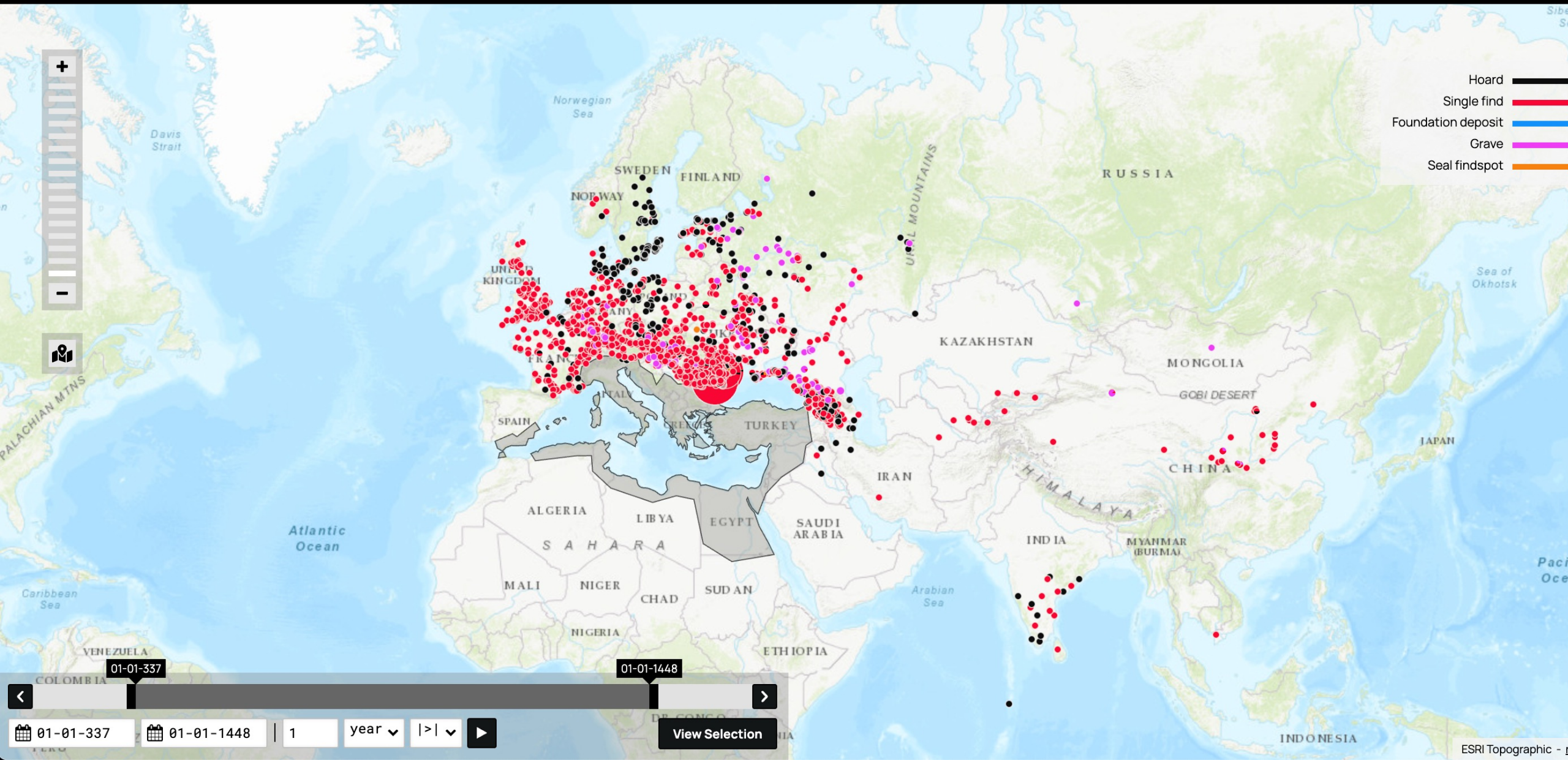


Beyond border (4 066 Objects)

Map

Chart

Start Over



Historical
interpretation remains ours.