

One of the main issues of prehistory concerns the role of the `steppe societies` in the cultural and demographic changes. It is of particular importance in explaining the emergence of the European Bronze Age civilization in the 3rd millennium BC, very often connected with the expansion of the Indo-European peoples and - in this context – with the migration of the Yamna culture `steppe-societies` along Danube. The western border of this expansion was the Tisa-Danube estuary on the territory of Vojvodina (Republic of Serbia).

The aim of the project is to present the archaeological material of the `steppe-societies` in Vojvodina. Due to the scarcity of available data two burial mounds will be excavated. Both newly acquired and archival materials will be used to perform a complex research in order to describe the relation between the `steppe-peoples` and the societies inhabiting the Danube area and Central Europe. The research will involve bioarchaeological analyses of human skeletons, including DNA and stable isotope analyses indicating the origins at one hand and the biological condition of the population at the other. The analysis of the cultural features, including above all the rules concerning the funeral ritual will serve as the basis for the comparisons the materials from Serbia and the other areas occupied by the Yamna culture settlement, as well as the other late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age cultural groups. The project will result in a monograph in English covering the full range of research.

The research will be performed by the Polish scholars together with the specialists from Serbia, Croatia and Great Britain. Appropriate agreements between the Polish and Serbian scientific institutions allow to conduct the field research on the territory of the key importance for reconstructing social phenomena of the Neolithic and Bronze Age transition in Europe, the territory which remains so far archaeologically very poorly recognized.