

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The aim of the project is description of communities inhabiting land of south-eastern Poland in the Final Neolithic (2800-2300 BC) based on archaeological sources and anthropological, archaeogenetic as well as physicochemical analyses. This territory constituted in the ancient history the corridor to Central Europe for the migration of population and transmission socioeconomic models from areas located to the east of our land. The project includes interdisciplinary examinations conducted by researchers representing different fields of science. Planned, innovative analyses are based on latest achievements in the science and parallel examinations are being performed at leading centers in of Europe. The end of the Third millennium BC is a period of essential population changes in Central, Northern and Eastern Europe commonly identified with the migration of Indo-European tribes. In archaeological sources these changes are visible through the appearance in large areas the mobile communities using similar tools and set of pottery determined as the Corded Ware Culture. These communities had similar funeral customs manifesting itself with burying the dead beneath barrows and inhabited campsites differing from earlier long-term settlements. Despite of the great role in the everyday life of these communities items made of stone this category of artifacts will be subjected to a detailed analysis. It will be take into account the way the given item was performed and raw material from which it was produced. The analysis of the exploitation of determined raw materials will allow to reconstruct the net of connections between human groups inhabiting various areas. Based on archaeological sources description of the Final Neolithic communities will be enriched by results of interdisciplinary analyses. One of tasks of these analyses is establishing the genetic structure of remains selected for examinations. These results will be compared with archaeogenetic data obtained for Central-European populations in last time. Significant supplementation of archaeological studies will be strontium and oxygen stable isotopes analyses that will allow for reconstruction of migration processes in the Final Neolithic communities. Moreover analyses of stable isotopes of carbon and nitrogen will allow for determining the diet of buried individuals, pointing at exploitation of the natural resources. This data will allow for determining the preferred type of the economy that is particularly essential in the case of the high mobility of analysed communities. In this way a direct verification of the hypothesis of the dominant role of the pastoralism in communities of the Corded Ware Culture will be performed. Professional analyses will also include establishing the chemical composition of metal artifacts that will allow for showing resemblances and differences in the content of individual elements in objects, and indirectly will enable the localization of raw material deposits. In consequence it will be possible to reconstruct the net of interregional connections and circulation of the given goods. Determining composition of ceramic mass and the identification of additive ingredients will be the aim of ceramics analysis. The goal of these examinations will be setting the rate of utilisation the local raw materials to the production similar in shape and decoration potteries appeared in various settlement regions. Conducted analyses will enable to verify hypotheses concerning transmission of cultural patterns by the origin and mobility of the producer (genetic structure analysis, strontium and oxygen stable isotopes) and place of pottery producing and perhaps metal artifacts (microscopic analysis of ceramics, chemical composition of metals analysis). For areas of southeastern Poland we don't have larger archaeogenetic and isotopic data series concerning the end of the Neolith. On that account in the project material coming from the settlement areas of Corded Ware Culture and Bell Beaker Culture will be subjected to analyses: West Małopolska Loess Upland, Sandomierz Upland, Lublin Upland, Sokal Ridge and the southern part of the Sandomierz Basin – Rzeszów Foothills. These materials are most representative for Polish territories, acquired in the course of long-term excavations conducted by the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology Polish Academy of Sciences, Foundation of the Rzeszów Archaeological Centre, Archeological Museum in Cracow and other museum from South-Eastern Poland. Comprehensive studies of these materials summarized in planned monographs and specialist articles will be fundamental for the future research on cultural transformations in the Final Neolithic in the Central Europe. Contemporary, interdisciplinary research methods will allow to exploit enormous cognitive potential that is embedded in archaeological material. Results of planned investigations will be presented on the international conferences, publish in monographs and in the series of articles.