

## **Description for the general public**

Project's main aim is reconstruction of warrior's social identity and its embedding in its original social context, associated with prehistoric societies of Corded Ware Culture from Lesser Poland. Due to the presence of explicit differences in male burials' specificity it was assumed that at least two different types of male social identity could be distinguished, one of which is most probably associated with warlike activities. Reconstruction of this war-related identity, due to its two-dimensional character, i.e. cultural, constructed using different types of material culture and physical, related to overall state of health and body constitution, will be conducted in a twofold manner. Re-creation of cultural aspect of warriorhood is based on the comparative analysis of chosen burial traits, such as age, body arrangement, body orientation, types and number of funerary equipment and so on. On this basis different sets of material objects related only to hypothetical warriors will be distinguished. They will be also used for reconstruction of social roles associated with social identity under examination. In case of warriors' physicality different analytical methods, derived from physical anthropology must be applied. Different forms of physical activity of the deceased will be examined using the Cross-sectional geometry analysis. On this basis the true nature of weaponry from the burials will be evaluated; prolonged use of weaponry affects the shape of bones, therefore it is possible to verify the way weapons were actually used – as a means of representation or lethal tool of war. Examination of teeth is used for reconstruction of overall health and dietary customs. This information will be used for the comparison of these traits between two skeletal populations under examination, representing warriors and non-warring males.

The state of art regarding warriors may be described as relatively poor, which was the main reason why Author decided to further examine this problem. Figures of warriors re-appeared continuously in a number of publications, unfortunately usually as a background for discussions about changes in social structure of Corded Ware communities or as a typological category of a burial. Nevertheless, due to a quantity of information about burials' specificity and relatively good state of preservation of skeletal material, the re-creation of warrior identity in its both dimensions – cultural and physical – and the evaluation of the degree of their correspondence constitutes a feasible and also very intriguing research problem.