

The following project aims to continue and to extend the studies on the development of the fortified settlements' societies of Vátya Culture in the Kakucs microregion. This area is situated in the central part of Hungary, in the middle basin of Danube – one of the most important communication artery of prehistoric Europe. The Vátya societies existed from the end of the IIIrd millennium BC up to the end of the first half of the IIInd millennium BC. They left behind rich archaeological sources, from which the most significant are the vast cremation cemeteries and numerous fortified settlements. The latter were often inhabited continuously for centuries, creating unique archive of the past culture and economy. On the one hand archaeological record shows us the Vátya communities as deeply rooted in the local cultural tradition, while on the other as the one functioning in a well-developed net of interregional contacts. The last mentioned allowed them to reach for desired raw materials of their epoch, such as copper, tin, gold or Baltic amber which were not available locally.

The main basis for the consideration undertaken in this project is the mentioned phenomenon of the emergence and functioning of the fortified settlements. Principal research question concerns the meaning of the existence (or coexistence?) of five fortified settlements in a relatively small area of Kakucs microregion. By the means of advanced research methods, derived from geology, physics and chemistry, authors plan to reconstruct the history of emergence, functioning and diminishing the fortifications – namely the ditch encircling the discussed Vátya settlements. Within these fortifications a vibra-coring will be used in order to obtain the cores with undisturbed sediments stratigraphy and structure. Extracted cores are going to be subjected to detailed and multi-aspect special analyses. On the basis of their results it will be possible to reconstruct the history of fortifications in regard to particular settlements. Also every stage of fortifications development will be placed in timeframe. Therefore it will be possible to relate these defensive construction between each discussed settlement. Basing on the results of these reconstructions and concept of political economy, authors are planning to create an anthropological model of the relations connecting particular communities – from totally independent development of each group up to partial or total coexistence (based on the common interests, conflicts or isolation).