

Bronze Age necropolis at Żerniki Górne in southern Poland is a unique archaeological site. In here, around 170 individuals associated with Middle Bronze Age were buried in 15 burial chambers. However, what is most notable the skeletal remains in those collective burials are characterized by remarkably good DNA preservation.

Initial studies on around 30% of the individuals from the site shown that DNA is very well preserved in most of the sampled individuals allowed to show that the buried populations was characterized by large numbers of direct first- and second-degree biological kin relationships. Those results together with the large total number of individuals buried at the site, make it an ideal case study for an attempt at reconstructing various aspects of this Bronze Age society including its structure, health, diet and mobility.

In order to accomplish this, we propose a project intending to perform a broad array of state-of-the art scientific analyses, on all eligible individuals from the site. Those methods will include anthropological analyses of the skeletal remains, physicochemical isotopic analyses, and extensive ancient DNA studies. By the end of the project, we intend to create a very detailed portrait of this Bronze Age society.