The project aims to investigate the mobility patterns and social hierarchies in the Domasław region (SW Poland) during the Late Bronze Age and Hallstatt period (12^{th}–6^{th} BC) through bioarchaeological and chronological perspectives. The main goal is to explore how distinctions between elite and non-elite groups, as well as between locally born and non-local individuals, shaped the social, cultural, and biological transformations expressed through funerary practices.

The cemetery in Domasław contains over 2,000 graves, making it one of the largest burial sites from this period in Central Europe and presents a unique opportunity to deepen our understanding of mobility and passages of power in the communities.

While the position of southwestern Poland within the Hallstatt cultures is debated, understanding the role of elites remains crucial. Elites, as the highest social stratum, played a key part in controlling resources and facilitating cultural exchanges, contributing significantly to the broader cultural dynamics of the Hallstatt period. The Domasław site is unique due to its high concentration of elites. However, the position of non-elites should not be overlooked, as they too participated in and influenced resource distribution and cultural practices.

The project will examine how social rank during the Late Bronze Age and the Hallstatt period, influenced resource distribution and cultural practices, as well as how these practices evolved over time, as evidenced by archaeological material. By comparing the treatment of elite and non-elite individuals in death, we can gain a better understanding of the complex social stratification that likely existed within the community.

The project's interdisciplinary approach will include osteological analysis, strontium isotope testing, and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR). These methods are particularly useful in studying cremated remains, as they allow researchers to investigate the geographic origins of individuals and identify patterns of mobility. The strontium isotope analysis, for instance, can differentiate between people who were born locally and those who migrated from other regions. Such detailed insights into mobility patterns will help to reconstruct the social and cultural landscape of the Domasław community. This will enable us to trace if they were part of a mobile elite, and how migration might have impacted the community's structure. By integrating these findings, the project will contribute to broader research on prehistoric mobility and its role in shaping social identities.

The project will also place a strong emphasis on chronological refinement, helping to establish a clearer timeline for the Hallstatt period in Poland. This will allow for a more detailed understanding of the cultural phases during this era and how funerary practices and social hierarchies evolved over time. Pinpointing these chronological shifts is crucial for understanding how regional dynamics may have changed, influenced by factors such as external trade, migration, or internal social developments. By comparing these shifts with findings from other Hallstatt regions in Europe, the project will contribute to our broader understanding of how interconnected this region was with other parts of the Hallstatt cultural network.

Moreover, the project aims to explore whether the Domasław region should be considered part of the core Hallstatt cultural sphere or more of a peripheral zone that was influenced by Hallstatt practices rather than directly participating in them. This aspect of the research will assess the degree of cultural contact with other Hallstatt centers, looking for evidence of shared burial practices, trade connections, or other forms of interaction that might place Domasław within the larger context of prehistoric Europe.

In terms of scientific impact, the project will involve collaboration with international specialists in isotope geochemistry, archaeology, bioarchaeology, and related fields, ensuring that the findings are integrated into the broader European archaeological discourse. One of the key outcomes will be the project's contribution to the IsoArcH database, an open-access platform that allows researchers worldwide to share and analyze isotopic data from archaeological contexts. This contribution will enhance the visibility of the project's findings and foster comparative studies across Europe, particularly in terms of understanding how mobility and social structure influenced other prehistoric communities.

The project will include extensive chromatographic and zooarchaeological analyses. A key focus will be on comparing the contents of vessels from elite and non-elite graves to explore shifts in consumption patterns, as well as examining the relationship between animal sacrifices and social status based on the cremated remains found in the cemetery.

The project's results will be widely disseminated through high-impact scientific publications and presentations at international conferences, as well as the dedicated website. This project promises to significantly advance our knowledge of social, cultural, and biological dynamics in southwestern Poland during the Late Bronze Age and Hallstatt periods. Through its interdisciplinary approach and innovative use of cutting-edge analytical techniques, the project will offer new perspectives on the role of social hierarchies, mobility, and cultural interaction in shaping the lives of prehistoric communities. These insights will provide a clearer understanding of the Hallstatt cultural network and the ways in which people, goods, and ideas moved across regions in prehistoric Europe.