



Università
Ca'Foscari
Venezia

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: GEOarchaeology of DAily Practices: extracting bronze age lifeways from the domestic stratigraphic record

FUNDING PROGRAMME: HORIZON 2020

CALL: ERC-2020-COG – Consolidator Grant

DESCRIPTORS: General archaeology, Archaeometry, Landscape archaeology, Prehistory, Palaeoanthropology, Palaeodemography, Protohistory

HOST DEPARTMENT: Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Battistel Dario

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 1.987.141,00	€ 80.141,25

ABSTRACT:

What was daily life like in the European Bronze Age? In contrast to large-scale narratives based on artefacts, often prestige items from funerary contexts, this project focuses on the practices of daily domestic life, recorded in the sediments upon which it took place. These constitute the domestic stratigraphic record. This project, therefore, shifts the scale and the object of archaeological investigation, and aims at bringing interdisciplinary scientific analyses into dialogue with anthropological understandings of lifeways and households. Its main objective is the formulation of an innovative narrative of the Bronze Age addressing social, economic, and environmental aspects of a culturally interconnected region of Europe. The daily practices and life histories of bronze age people will be the pixels of this new picture that challenges previous depersonalized narratives relying on material culture. The region between the Carpatho-Danubian basin, the Balkans, and northern Italy was selected due to its important cultural interactions during the Bronze Age. Ten key archaeological sites in six European countries constitute the project's database. Its innovative interdisciplinary approach integrates geoarchaeology (micro-stratigraphic analysis), organic chemistry (biomarkers) and archaeo-botany (phytoliths, seeds, fruits, and charcoal) to reconstruct with unprecedented accuracy the daily practices from domestic stratigraphy. This information will be compared with the story told by material culture and integrated with local paleo-environmental records. The project, in fact, challenges also previous reconstructions that called in environmental mega-events (volcanic eruptions, glacial advances, aridity events) to aprioristically explain broad cultural phenomena of the Bronze Age. Their inherent complexity can only be faced by crystallizing detailed micro-histories and site-specific environmental reconstructions into a broader synthesis based on hard scientific data.

Planned Start date	Planned End date
1 st October 2021	30 th September 2026

BENEFICIARIES:

1	Università Degli Studi di Padova	Padova (IT)	Beneficiary
2	Università Ca' Foscari Venezia	Venice (IT)	Partner
3	Università del Salento	Lecce (IT)	Partner