



Neanderthal and Early Modern Human Interactions in
the Central Balkans

Coordination Meeting 2 Report

27 December 2023

Belgrade

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I Attendees

1. Dušan Mihailović
2. Vesna Dimitrijević
3. Katarina Bogičević
4. Draženko Nenadić
5. Ana Majkić
6. Stefan Milošević
7. Predrag Radović
8. Sofija Dragosavac
9. Anđa Petrović
10. Mirela Đurović

II Overview

Throughout the project "Neanderthal and Early Modern Human Interactions in the Central Balkans" (NEEMO) in 2022, a high degree of coordination was achieved between working groups and project team members, which was regularly reported to the Science Fund.

The coordination meeting of the project participants was held via the Zoom platform on 27 December 2023. The agenda items were as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Working group reports on the project's progress in 2023
3. Consideration of research results
4. Activity plan for 2024
5. Consideration of the Environmental and Social Management Plan
6. Consideration of the Risk Management Plan

Introduction

At the beginning of the meeting, Dušan Mihailović (PI) introduced the participants to the project to the dynamics of activities undertaken in 2023 and outlined the plan for activities in 2024.

Working group reports on the project's progress in 2023

The activities of the working groups in 2023 were considered in the context of milestones and deliverables presented in the latest approved Gantt chart.

It was noted that sub-activities within WP1–WP3 (i.e., WP1 – Archaeology and Paleanthropology; WP2 – Paleoeconomy; WP3 – Paleoecology) have been fully implemented and that it is necessary to end Subactivity 1.1 related to surveying and test-pit excavations in southern (IZ1) and eastern Serbia (IZ2). Furthermore, the plan is to continue field surveys and test-pit excavations in eastern Serbia and on Mount Radan (southern Serbia) and to proceed with test-pit excavations in the Pešterija rock shelter (southeastern Serbia). Accordingly, it has been proposed to postpone the completion of the remaining sub-activities within WP1, as well as sub-activities related to WP2 and WP3, until the end of 2024. While many works related to the implementation of SA1.1-1.3, SA2.1-2.3, and SA3.1-3.3 have already been published, key papers are yet to be released, which serves as an additional reason for the postponement.

Activity plan for 2024

It was agreed that the international conference on the connections between the Balkans and the Levant in the Middle and Upper Pleistocene will be organized in Belgrade in October 2024. All papers related to milestones and deliverables within WP4 (Integration of research results) should be published in the proceedings of this conference.

Consideration of Environmental and Social Management Plan, and Risk Management Plan

Participants in the project are familiar with all the details related to the Environmental and Social Management Plan, and Risk Management Plan. It has been noted that there is currently no need to modify these plans, but they will be adjusted if circumstances arise that could jeopardize their implementation.