



Neanderthal and Early Modern Human Interactions in
the Central Balkans

Final meeting report

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Belgrade

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I Attendees

1. Dušan Mihailović
2. Vesna Dimitrijević
3. Ana Majkić
4. Predrag Radović
5. Sofija Dragosavac
6. Anđa Petrović
7. Mirela Đurović

The final meeting of the NEEMO project participants took place on 24 December 2024. During the meeting, the research findings from 2024 were summarised alongside the project's overall achievements. Additionally, the outcomes of studies conducted within the working groups were reviewed. The closing discussion was dedicated to planning follow-up activities.

II Discussion of the project work results

The research conducted in 2024 was carried out within WP 4, which focused on a) Integration of palaeoecological and archaeological information and palaeoeconomy (SA 4.1), b) Testing hypotheses on the impacts of climate and social factors (SA 4.2), and c) Evaluating results within broader regional frameworks concerning NE-EMH interactions (SA 4.3).

In 2024, archaeological research at the Pešterija Cave near Zvonačka Banja continued, yielding exceptional results. The site revealed archaeological finds from the late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, filling a significant gap in understanding these prehistoric periods in the Central Balkans.

The Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade hosted the "Eastern Mediterranean Contact Area in Early Prehistory" international conference from 6 to 7 December 2024. The event attracted a significant number of scholars from Serbia and abroad. The conference proceedings are planned for publication in the first half of 2025.

The measures outlined in the "Environmental and Social Management Plan" were reinforced by the adoption of the "Fieldwork Rules for the NEEMO Project," which have been published on the project's official website: <https://neemoproject.com/>.

A list of papers published to date (organised by quarter) is provided at the end of the report. Papers related to the implementation of WP1–WP4, which have already been submitted, are expected to be published in early 2025.

III Follow-up activities

Following the completion of the project, the continuation of the following activities is planned:

- a) Analyses of samples and materials collected during previous research (Petrovac 1, Balanica, Selačka Cave 3, Šalitrena Pećina, Hadži Prodanova Cave, Kozja and Mala Caves, Arena, Cave near the rock)
- b) Publication of the research results generated within the project
- c) Ongoing collaboration with international institutions involved in the project, focusing on palaeoclimatic and palaeogenetic studies
- d) Cooperation with educational institutions and academic organisations
- e) Strengthening collaboration with the local community (Sićevo, Rudna Glava)
- f) Partnership with cultural heritage protection institutions and tourism organisations
- g) Promotion of research findings both domestically and internationally.

IV Bibliography by quarters

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