

FOREWORD

This publication was carried out as part of the work of the European (International since 2010) Research Network «PREHISToric exploitation of OSseous materials in Europe, *Appearance and diffusion of technical and functional inventions from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age*» (GDRE PREHISTOS).

Created in 2007 by the French *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS), the GDRE PREHISTOS, through a convention, officially associates specialists in the study of osseous industries and the exploitation of animal resources during Prehistory. It currently includes 44 members from 9 western, central and eastern European countries (France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland and Russia) and is affiliated with 16 partnership laboratories from 21 different institutions.

The shared goal of the members of the GDRE PREHISTOS is to study the hard animal material industries and to trace the potentially linked history of two main innovations associated with bone material working (“debitage by extraction” and the use of bevels in hafting systems) and to evaluate their social role through their variability and evolution over a broad geographic (Europe) and chronological scale (from the Paleolithic to the Iron Age).

At the same time, the GDRE PREHISTOS aims to follow the orientation of studies of prehistoric bone industries developed in the late 1990’s and early 2000’S (technological and functional use wear studies), to further develop this domain across Europe and henceforth, internationally.

The first four-year program of the GDRE PREHISTOS (2007-2010) enabled us to construct its scientific bases in the form of tools (such as the multilingual lexicon and the data sheets), as well as the resources (research, identification, case studies, experimentation) necessary to attain its scientific goals. It also resulted in publications. The second four-year program (2011-2014) will allow us to develop our research programs with the help of collective work-sessions.

During the past two years, these collective work-sessions turned into round-tables in order to review the state of advancement of our research. Four chrono-thematic work sessions were thus decided. In 2013, the first one was devoted to the Upper/Final Palaeolithic and Mesolithic bone industries (Kurchatov, Russian Federation), the second one was devoted to the Neolithic and Chalcolithic bone industries (Târgoviște, Romania). In 2014, another one will bear upon the Paleolithic bone industries (Burgos, Spain), the last one upon the Bronze Age bone industries (Budapest, Hungaria).

All of these work-sessions must be published. This book is the publication of the proceedings of the work-session – round table organized in Valahia University of Târgoviște, Romania, from the 5th to the 9th of november 2013, under the scientific direction of Monica Mărgărit (Valahia University of Târgoviște) and of Gaëlle Le Dosseur (ArScAn UMR 7041 « Ethnologie préhistorique » Team) and under the supervision of Aline Averbouh, director of GDRE PREHISTOS.

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Thanks to the financial support of Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research, CNCS – UEFISCDI and the participation of GDRE PREHISTOS, this publication could be bilingual as we had wished: in English for an international diffusion but also in Romanian, the host country native language, in order to preserve linguistic diversity that enrich the works of GDRE PREHISTOS.

Aline Averbouh,
Director of GDRE PREHISTOS