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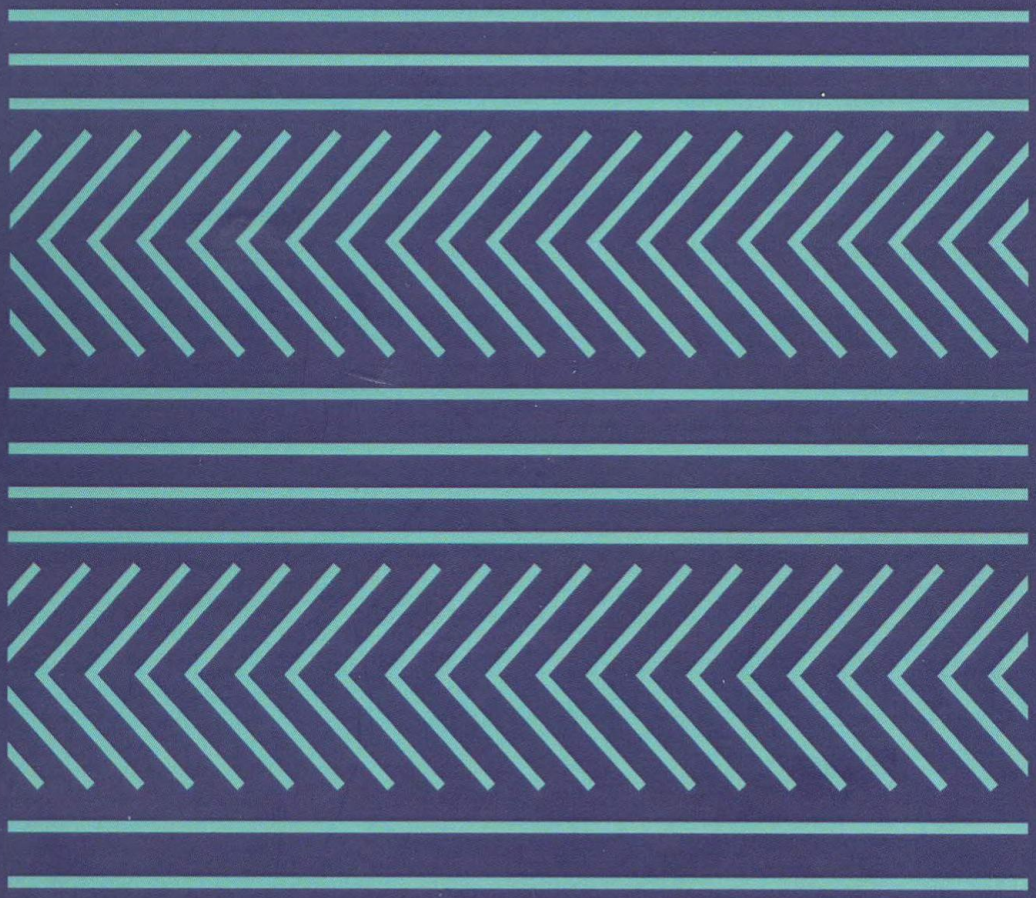

1st Conference on the
EARLY NEOLITHIC of EUROPE

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of research has been conducted on the transition from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic in Lepenski Vir and the Danube Gorges, there is still uncertainty concerning the absolute chronological position of the earliest settlements south of the Danube plain. This paper will mainly focus on Early and Middle Neolithic settlements and tells along the Lower Danube and its tributaries, but also include the Vardar and Struma River Valleys and Thrace. Recent excavations demonstrated the great archaeological potential of this region, but radiocarbon samples are still quite rare. We will sum up the available data and modell them according to their stratigraphic position. Modelling will be done by using a comparative approach of Gaussian Monte Carlo Wiggle Matching integrated in the program CalPal and Bayesian Statistics using OxCal. Also we aim to explore the potential of sites such as Sushina, Dudesti Vechi and Varbitsa by creating new stratified radiocarbon site chronologies. These results will be interpreted spatially and we aim to propose some first hypotheses for the absolute-chronological development of the Early (and Middle) Neolithic settlements in the Eastern and Central Balkans.

ORAL PRESENTATION 4

Neolithic Demographic Transition in the Central Balkans: population dynamics reconstruction based on new radiocarbon evidence

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The use of summed calibrated radiocarbon probability distributions method (SCPD) has been widely used in palaeodemographic reconstructions

of population dynamics worldwide. Recent application of the method in the Central Balkans, based on published C14 dates, has shown partial correspondence with the predictions for the first phase of the Neolithic demographic transition, but instead of detecting one episode of major population increase in the population proxy curve, as we would expect based on the theory, the resulting pattern was a bimodal curve suggesting two episodes of population increase and two episodes of decrease. In order to clarify the situation and make a robust and valid reconstruction of the Early Neolithic population dynamics in the Central Balkans, more than 200 new radiocarbon samples were collected in a probabilistic manner from the Early Neolithic sites in Serbia by the ERC funded project BIRTH - Births, mothers and babies: Prehistoric fertility in the Balkans between 10000-5000 cal BC. We present and discuss the new results based on the new set of samples taken specifically and exclusively to meet the requirements of the SCPD method.

ORAL PRESENTATION 5

Chronological and cultural data on the Neolithization process in Albania

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The last excavations and the re-excavation of some Early Neolithic settlements in Albania have contributed to studies that led to a better understanding of the chronology and aspects of their economic and cultural development. For more than half a century of research for the Neolithic, important information was obtained in Albania. The conclusions and results achieved until 1990 were mainly based on archaeological data and the relative chronology. The analyses and studies for the environment, the flora, fauna, geo-archaeology, and the radiocarbon dating result from the application of multi-disciplinary research during the last decades. Data